■ ACROSS / A17

Murder raps filed vs La Union Rep. Tomas Dumpit Sr., son for Comelec exec's killing

■ WORLD / A24

World's 1st bladder transplants done on 7 patients in US

■ METRO / A21

Police arrest one of 3 suspects in rob-slay of call center employee

■ NEWS / A8

House OKs antiterror bill, drops death penalty for life term, multimillion-peso fines

'Pinoy Big Brother' visits Batasan 5 'Housemates'

HINDI SYA KFC...AY, KSP PALA!

By Norman Bordadora

NO POLITICAL CAREER for "Pinoy Big Brother" winner Keanna Reeves, thank you.

Reeves, who emerged as No. 1 "housemate" in ABS-CBN's popular reality

PINOY/ A4

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, April 5, 2006 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 118 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Cruz proposes to extend generals' tour of duty

By Dona Pazzibugan and Philip C. Tubeza

DEFYING MILITARY TRADITION, DEFENSE SECretary Avelino Cruz Jr. proposed that military officers retire after 30 years in the service unless one was promoted to one-star rank (brigadier general or commodore), whereupon he would get a five-year extension.

He is extended for another four years if pro-

CRUZ/ A16

Thai PM Thaksin quits

Decision made abruptly out of respect for nation's King Bhumibol

BANGKOK — THAILand's embattled Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra abruptly announced Tuesday he will step down from office, bowing to a mounting opposition campaign seeking his ouster over allegations of corruption and abuse of power.

Thaksin's announcement came shortly after he met with the country's revered monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, at the latter's seaside palace in southern Hua Hin.

"I am sorry that I will not accept the premier post," Thaksin said during a televised speech. "I apologize to my 16 million supporters that I cannot take the post of prime minister, but I will still carry on as a caretaker prime minister until my successor is chosen."

"My reason for not accepting the post of prime minister is because this year is an auspicious year for the King, whose 60th anniversary on the throne is just 60 days away," Thaksin said.

"I beg all Thais to sacrifice for the king," he added.

He said that he would remain as caretaker head of government until his replacement is elected once Parliament reopens within the next 30 days.

"We have no time to quarrel," he said. "I want to see Thai people unite and forget what has happened."

The announcement came as opposition forces were gearing up to resume their antigovernment protests and early election

THAI PM/ A15

Senate media report says GMA is not the State

By Philip C. Tubeza

SHE IS NOT THE STATE AND SHE is not Louis XIV, the 17th century absolute monarch who ruled France for 72 years.

This was the thrust of Senate Committee Report No. 69 released yesterday which condemned what it said were moves by President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration to "control and muzzle" media during the weeklong state of emergency she declared in February.

The 34-page report said: "The President is not the State when it is mentioned in the Constitution. But Malacañang, in the manner of Louis XIV, equates the State as the President. Hence, the unbridled disregard of constitutional limitations on the Presidency."

The famous phrase "*L'etat, c'est moi* (I am the state)" is often attributed to the French king.

The hard-hitting report denounced what it called "presidential arrogance."

Senators crossed party lines to sign the report authored by administration Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Senator Arroyo praised the media for standing their ground against attempts to muzzle them.

The signatories were Arroyo, Juan Flavier, Ralph Recto, Pia Cayetano, Francis Pangilinan,

SENATE/ A15

Happy Birthday PGMA

FESTIVE MOOD. On the eve of her 59th birthday today, President Arroyo is in the mood to fiesta as she visits the town of Mapandan, Pangasinan, where 60 percent of the town voters signed up to change the Constitution. Behind her are DPWH Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane (2nd from right) and retired Gen. Jose Calimlim (3rd from right), SBMA senior deputy administrator for operations. Ms Arroyo is scheduled to observe her birthday in her hometown of Lubao, Pampanga. And Gina de Venecia takes the cake.

LYN RILLON

GMA and Mike like yin and yang, says older sis

By Fe Zamora

SHE IS "COLD, ALOOF AND A brilliant planner," a perfect match to her husband, who is "warm, outgoing and a smooth operator," President Macapagal-Arroyo's half-sister, Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, says of the First Couple.

"Like *yin* and *yang*, they complement each other, " Salgado said, referring to the two principles in Chinese philosophy—one negative, dark and feminine (yin), and the other positive, bright and masculine (yang). Their interaction is believed to influence the destinies of creatures and things.

The remarks were culled from interviews the INQUIRER had with Salgado in January and again last week.

Salgado claimed the President would not be completely unaware of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo's controversial activities, including his supposed involvement in alleged irregularities in the 2004 presidential election.

"Except perhaps for affairs of the heart, *lahat nang gagawin ni* Mike *alam ni* Gloria (everything Mike does is known to Gloria)," Salgado said.

The Arroyos have been married since 1968. She turns 59 today. His birthday wish for her is "happiness and less politics." *(See story on Page A4.)*

Like the supposed "conjugal dictatorship" of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, Ms Arroyo and the First Gentleman complement each other as politicians, according to William "Billy" Esposo, a

GMA/ A4

EDWIN BACASMAS

ONE MORE GOLD! For capturing the best photograph that best embodied "the indomitable spirit and strength" of the Filipino athletes, which was the theme of the photo contest of the 23rd SEA Games hosted by the country late last year, INQUIRER staff photographer Lyn Rillon won first prize and P50,000 last Monday from First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, who sponsored the contest. The winning photo was that of Filipino athlete Danica Calapatan doing a routine at the rhythmic gymnastic competition. Second prize went to Ruy Martinez and third prize to Albert Garcia.

Now, Abalos does talking for Borra

By Jerome Aning, Norman Bordadora and TJ Burgonio

ELECTION COMMISSIONER Resurreccion Borra has stirred a hornet's nest in Congress with his statement that cheating had occurred during the May 2004 presidential election.

Since his unprecedented admission during a Senate inquiry on Monday that irregularities were committed during the balloting, which the opposition said President Macapagal-Arroyo stole, Borra has clammed up.

Instead, it was Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. who did all the talking yesterday for Borra.

Abalos said Borra had been "misinterpreted."

"I asked him and he told me 'No, chief, I did not say there was cheating in the last election,'" Abalos told reporters.

"What he meant was that there were historical instances in Lanao when even birds and insects could vote but these were done in previous elections and not in 2004. There was no massive fraud," he said.

Borra was at the Comelec yesterday to attend the commissioners' biweekly en banc session but declined all interviews after the meeting.

The Comelec's information de-

NOW/ A15

Madrigal scion, Jamby's pa, dies

By TJ Burgonio

DON ANTONIO MADRIGAL, THE father of Sen. Ma. Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal, died of natural causes at the family residence in New Manila, Quezon City, yesterday afternoon. He was 87.

His wife Amanda (daughter of the late Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos), daughters Jamby, Susana Madrigal-Eduque and Tana Madrigal-Gelb, and sister Chito Madrigal-Collantes and other relatives were at his bedside when he breathed his last at around 2:30 p.m.

The elder Madrigal was in the news last month after Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who was then debating with Senator Madrigal, mentioned him and his wife as having partied with the Marcoses in Malacañang during martial law.

Deeply hurt, Senator Madrigal denied what she called Enrile's insinuations that her father had benefited from the Marcos regime, wept and walked out of the session hall.

Later, in all interviews, still in

MADRIGAL/ A4

Nature's 1st art gallery is God's own greenery

By Blanche S. Rivera

ON HER STROLLS, THE ARTIST LOOKS downward, her eyes always wandering.

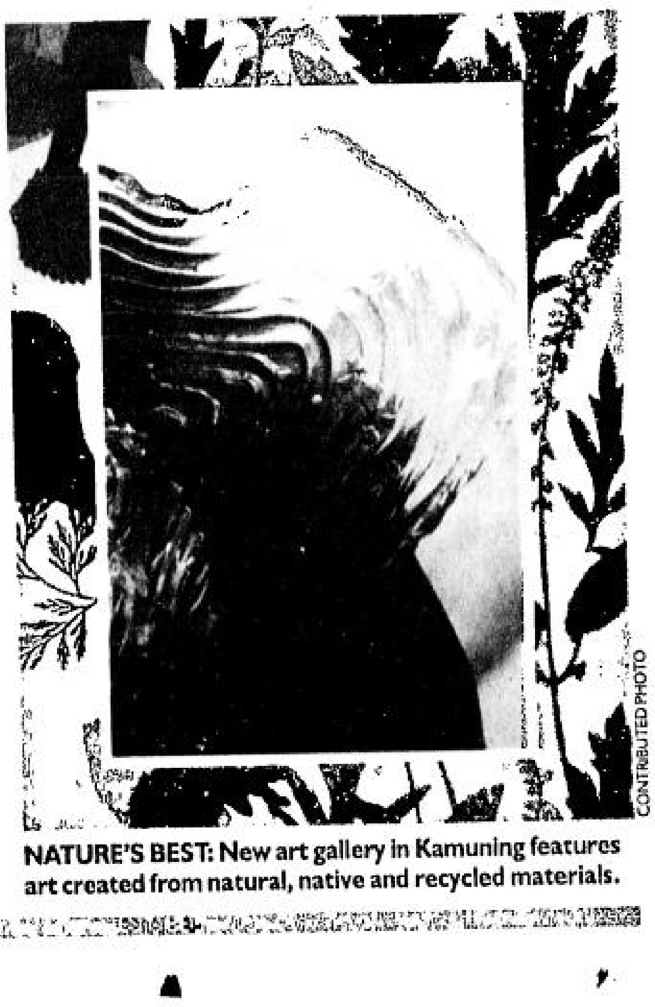
It's not that she is shy. It's just that she is perpetually on the lookout for flowers, leaves, ferns, stalks—or other things natural that can give color to her next piece of art.

Maria Monica Penelope R. Velasco, a pressed-flower artist and writer who won the first Environmental Communication Award from the United Nations Environment Programme in 2003, has produced about 75 art works since she started on what was once a mere hobby.

But until recently, there was something she could not find no matter how far she traveled and how hard she looked: A place for unique art like hers.

The frustrating search for that special

NATURE'S/ A15



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NATURE'S BEST: New art gallery in Kamuning features art created from natural, native and recycled materials.

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Second FrontPage
Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region and the eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/04/04/06 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Cha-cha is doomed – Pimentel

By TJ Burgonio

WITH NO LAW OR THE FUNDS TO SUSTAIN IT, THE people's initiative now being vigorously pursued by the Arroyo administration to amend the Constitution will not prosper, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday.

Pimentel said the initiative, now being carried out in the barangays through a signature campaign, would eventually be faced with legal as well as financial obstacles.

"Like a stack of cards, that façade of legality that JDV (Speaker Jose de Venecia), Gloria (President Macapagal-Arroyo) and (Local Government Secretary Ronaldo) Puno are advocating will fall flat on its own weight," he said in an interview.

"The reason is obvious—there are no legal props to sustain the position that there are no viable alternatives to the peaceful ouster of Gloria," he said.

During Monday's Senate inquiry into the "Hello Garci" wiretap scandal, Election Commissioner Resurreccion Borra had admitted the agency lacked the funds to verify the signatures on the people's initiative and to hold a plebiscite. The verification of millions of signatures alone is estimated to cost P1 billion.

Borra also said the Commission on Elections should dismiss any petitions to amend the 1987 Constitution after the Supreme Court had ruled that the Initiative and Referendum Act was "inadequate" to support a people's initiative.

"What shall we do? I don't want to speak in behalf of the en banc, but so far as I'm concerned, I will dismiss the petition," said Borra, echoing the senators who had pointed out that the Comelec was "permanently enjoined" by the Supreme Court from entertaining any petitions.

Once the people's initiative reaches a dead end, Pimentel predicted, the President's allies would revert to the House-initiated constituent assembly to amend the Charter.

"With the people's initiative encountering insurmountable legal and procedural obstacles, it's conceivable that they just might use the Con-Ass again," he said.

Con-Ass was temporarily shelved after the opposition said it had the numbers to block it.

Vice President Noli de Castro, meanwhile, yesterday warned proponents of the people's initiative not to subvert the process but to follow the true will of the people. *With Cynthia D. Balana*

Cha-cha groups cry harassment

By Norman Bordadora
and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

ONE OF THE ORGANIZATIONS SPEARheading the campaign for a people's initiative in amending the Constitution yesterday accused local authorities in the opposition strongholds of San Juan and Makati City of harassing and preventing its volunteers from gathering signatures, which it claims to have reached more than eight million nationwide.

Lawyer Raul Lambino, spokesman for Sigaw ng Bayan and a member of the Malacañang-appointed Constitutional Commission that drafted a proposed new Charter last year, said he had received complaints that volunteers distributing forms in San Juan and Makati were stopped from gathering signatures in those places last weekend.

"This is another act of desperation on the part of some politicians who think that they can overturn the irreversible momentum of Charter change through their arm-twisting tactics," Lambino said.

San Juan's mayor is JV Ejercito, son of former President Joseph Estrada, while the mayor of Makati is Jejomar Binay, one of the leaders of the United Opposition. Both are vocal critics of Ms Arroyo and her moves to amend the Constitution and shift to a new form of government with a unicameral parliament.

Lambino denied reports that people were made to sign blank forms to gather a greater number of signatories, which he claimed to have reached more than eight million nationwide.

Lambino's claim of harassment came as San Juan's Municipal Council passed a resolution opposing constitutional amendments via a people's initiative and Ejercito once more assailed what he described a rampant "signature-buying."

Meanwhile, officials in La Trinidad, Benguet, demanded that the signature campaign in the province's 13 towns and 140 barangays be declared "null and void" because residents were asked to sign forms without being informed of the issues.

"We do not recognize the process that was conducted," Provincial Board Member Aloysius Kato said. "We in the province have discussed all issues openly but how come, in this issue of Charter change, no discussions were done?" *With Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

She is most unpopular, but GMA is undaunted

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS the most unpopular Chief Executive of the last two decades, but her aides have stressed that their boss does not care if the public liked former Presidents Corazon Aquino, Fidel V. Ramos and Joseph Estrada more.

"Surveys that dwell on the political fate of the President do not faze her," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, repeating the mantra he has been saying since Ms Arroyo's satisfaction rating took a deep plunge from which it has yet to recover.

Social Weather Stations chief Mahar Mangahas, in a statement, said President Arroyo was "the least popular of the four presidents in the two decades since opinion polls have been regularly published," being the only state leader with a negative satisfaction rating.

In his footnotes, Mangahas said: "In Filipino as well as in English, 'satisfaction' is a better grade than 'approval.'"

Unusual route

Since "her unusual but legal (as ruled by the Supreme Court) route to the Presidency," Mangahas noted that the President received her first negative rating in early 2003 when she ordered Philippine troops to join the US-backed Coalition of the Willing in Iraq.

But her rating bounced back in the run-up to the 2004 elections which she won "with the narrowest point margin since independence in 1946," according to Mangahas.

But the President's allies in Congress yesterday tore into that survey, saying it was inaccurate.

Parañaque City Rep. Eduardo Zialcita dismissed the survey as improbable since the opposition had failed repeatedly to agitate the people enough to form a critical mass that would force her to resign.

Isabela Rep. Rodito Albano said the survey did not reflect the public sentiment against extraconstitutional moves to oust the President.

Facing the issue

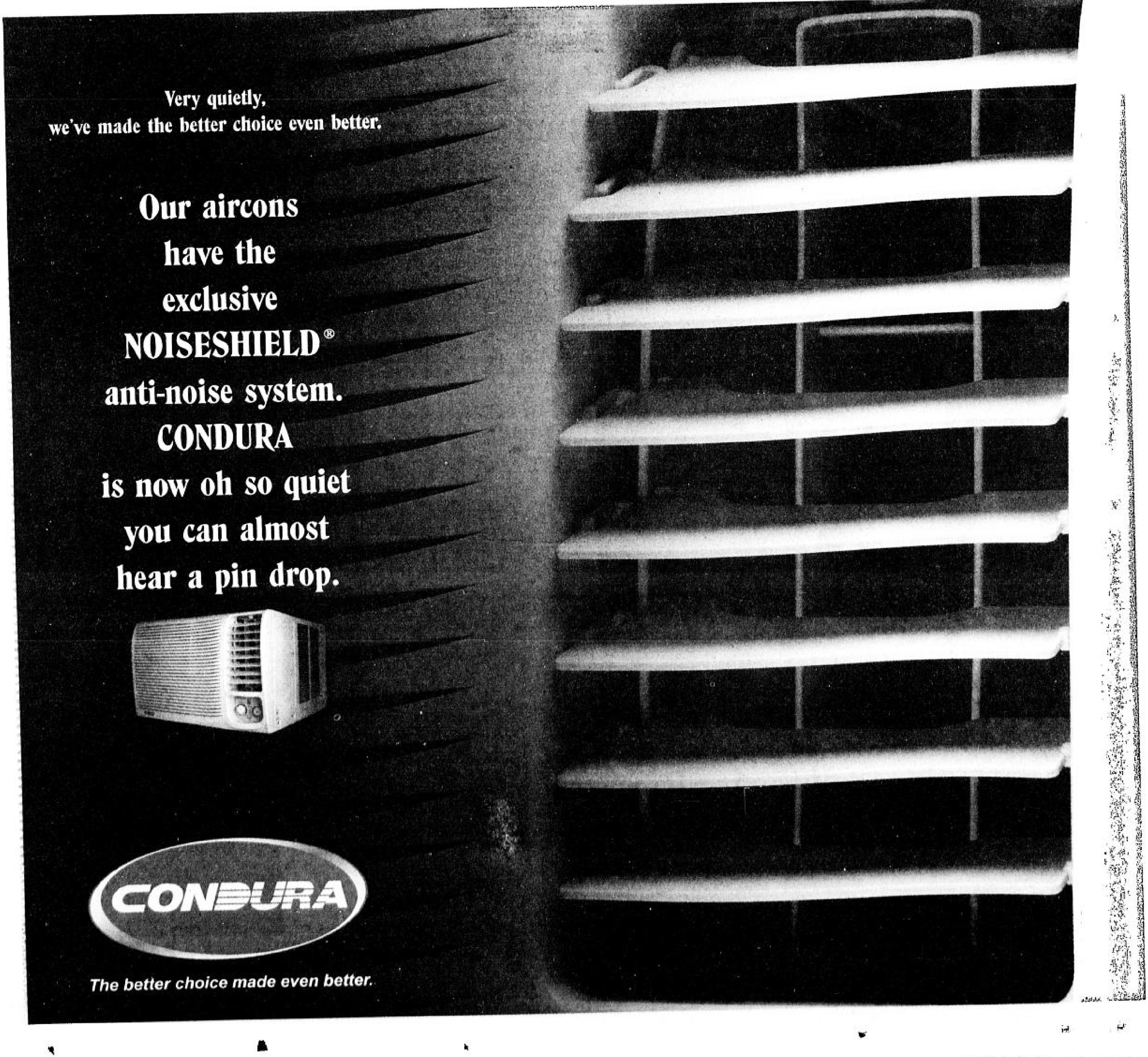
"Why will the SWS force the issue of the President's ouster when the people have seen how the anti-Arroyo forces had failed miserably to agitate the people at the height of the Hello Garci scandal?" said Zialcita, referring to the wiretapping controversy alleging cheating by the President in the May 2004 election.

He also said the planned withdrawal of support from Ms Arroyo by elements of the Army Scout Rangers, the Marines and the PNP Special Action Force last Feb. 24 lacked popular support.

"At the height of their oust-GMA moves, they lost the momentum and failed to generate mass support. What more now, when the economy is improving along with the peace and order," Zialcita said.

Albano said the SWS survey did not reflect the situation on the ground, particularly in the provinces.

"The survey does not reflect the true sentiments of our constituents in the provinces. In Isabela alone, our bishops are one with the people in supporting the Arroyo leadership," he said. *With Norman Bordadora*



RP population expected to double to 141.7M by 2040, says NSO

THE PHILIPPINES' POPULATION is expected to nearly double to 141.7 million in the 40 years to 2040, from 76.5 million at the turn of the century, the National Statistics Office said yesterday.

This means there would be 65 million new Filipinos in the 40 years to 2040, even though the population growth rate is projected to drastically decline to 1.0 percent from around 2.34 percent in the 1990s, it said in a statement.

The population would continue to grow by 1.95 percent within the 2005-2010 period, from 85.3 million in 2005 to 94.0 million in 2010.

By 2040 the population would also become older, as it is expected that women's child-bearing rate will continue to decline and the survival rates of all age groups will improve.

Last year, 35 percent of the population were aged 14 or younger.

The government agency said the Calabarzon region comprising several provinces with light industrial activity south of Manila would eclipse the capital in population terms by 2010.

Calabarzon would have 11.9 million people, overtaking Manila's 11.6 million, it added.

Efforts to curb population growth in the Philippines, which sends millions of people overseas to seek work, have been hampered by the influential Catholic Church. More than 80 percent of Filipinos are Roman Catholics. *AFP*

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1. Jenkins AL, *et al.* Depression of the glycemic Index by high levels of B-glucan fiber in two functional foods tested in type 2 diabetes. *Europ J Clin Nut* 2002; 56: 622-28.2. Evidence-based nutritional approaches to the treatment and prevention of diabetes mellitus. Diabetes and Nutrition Study Group (DNSG) of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD). *Nutr Metab Cardiovasc Dis* 2003; 14: 373-394. 3. Position Statement American Diabetes Association, *Diabetes Care* 2002; (1): 25 202-12, NEST0035. 4. Lavin JH , Read NW: The effect on hunger and satiety of slowing the absorption of glucose : relationship with gastric emptying and postprandial blood glucose and insulin responses. *Appetite* 25, 89-96, 1995. 5. Howarth NC, *et al.* Dietary fibre and weight regulation. *Nutr Rev* 2001; 59(5): 129-139.

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Gloria turns 59 today, gets 2 birthday cakes

By Christine O. Avendaño

TWO BIRTHDAY CAKES, WISHES for her peace of mind and for less politics, hopes for her happiness, and a seemingly overpowering people's initiative—what more could a woman turning 59 ask for?

President Macapagal-Arroyo found herself gifted with two creamy delights—one decorated with pink carnations—as she met with her Cabinet and toured a political bailiwick yesterday on the eve of her birthday.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo had just thanked her ministers after the Palace meeting when they broke into the "Happy Birthday" song and brought out a Häagen Dazs coffee ice cream cake with carnations.

"Peace of mind and accomplishment of the work she started" was the Cabinet's birthday wish for Ms Arroyo, Bunye said.

It was the second cake she got during the day.

Earlier, Ms Arroyo was in Mapandan, Pangasinan, to inaugurate a new police station and a new bridge, and attend the town fiesta.

At a packed town park, Mayor Ferdinand Calimlim, other officials and residents also sang "happy birthday" as they presented Ms Arroyo with a white and blue cake.

She thanked Mapandan residents not only for helping her win in the 2004 elections but also for supporting the signature drive to amend the Constitution. An amended Charter would allow her to stay on as prime minister in a parliamentary government.

"Not only did Mapandan deliver 70 percent of its votes for me during the 2004 elections, 60 percent signed up for the people's initiative," Ms Arroyo said.

She had her own gifts for Mapandan residents—1,000 health cards to be distributed after the Holy Week.

"Less politics" is First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo's wish for his politically battered wife.

"I wish her to be very, very happy and I wish really Filipinos would unite already," the First Gentleman told reporters the other day. "It's time to move on."

Mr. Arroyo said he planned to give her roses on her birthday and have dinner with her and the family tonight. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

GMA and Mike like yin and yang, says older sis

From page A1

co-founder of the President's own party Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi).

No sideline role for Mike

Esposo drew a contrast between the First Gentleman and the former First Lady, saying that "Mike antagonizes while Imelda charms."

He also said the unbridled support Mike and Imelda gave their spouses' political ambitions contributed to their respective partners' "staying power."

"Imelda knows how to defuse tension, but then she was not running the backroom. Mike is operational," Esposo said. "He forms alliances, he recruits people, he talks to the generals and these are important to the President."

But Mike never planned to stay in the sidelines, according to Esposo, citing the meetings he had with the Arroyos when they were mapping out her presidential plans in 1998.

Mike does talking

Esposo said he was invited to join Ms Arroyo's group by her classmate, Cherry Zapanta, in 1996, after Ms Arroyo was reelected senator.

The initial plan was for Esposo to head a GMA-for-president media bureau.

Even in the first meetings, Esposo said Mike already "did much of the talking" about the jockeying for positions in the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino. Mike was worried that his wife might not make it as standard-bearer of the LDP in 1998, Esposo said.

To help Ms Arroyo's presidential plans, the group founded Kampi and registered it with the Commission on Elections in 1997. Ms Arroyo was the first party president, with Margarita Cojuangco, Amado Bagatsing and Luis Santos as vice presidents and Emigdio Tanjuatco as secretary general.

In one meeting, Esposo said, Ms Arroyo was bristling over a "white paper" supposedly sent to LDP mayors and vice mayors, apparently to torpedo her chances of being the party's standard-bearer in 1998.

"Gloria herself brought a copy of the white paper. I glanced through it. There were names. It was supposed to be her sex life from way back during Georgetown days. It was very vicious. She was vexed and had wanted to fight back," Esposo said.

"Mike couldn't believe it also, but it was written in such a way that there was a semblance of credibility," Esposo said.

The group was in a bind.

"It was a no-win situation. It was not yet in media, we could not answer it. If we went proactive, we may just be attracting curiosity and attention," he said.

Deferred to husband

The decision was to let her "offset the issue without directly attacking it," such as by projecting herself as a pious woman who went on regular retreats with nuns, Esposo said.

"We also agreed that we should not be distracted from our main goal, which was how to stop (former movie actor Joseph) Estrada," Esposo said.

Ms Arroyo did win in 1998 but as vice president.

According to Salgado, Ms Arroyo always deferred to the First Gentleman, even against her father's wishes, such as her decision to run for senator under the LDP in 1995, instead of under the Liberal Party, with which their father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, had been affiliated.

Fierce defender

"But Mike is also *cariñoso* and generous (and) tends to pamper Gloria," Salgado said, recalling their family weekend get-togethers in the '70s and the '80s.

On one occasion, Mike saw a Cartier watch Salgado was wearing and promptly asked where he could buy one "because Gloria wants a Cartier," Salgado recalled.

Ms Arroyo would also be her husband's fiercest defender, Salgado said.

In the early 1990s, when she was vice governor of Pampanga, Salgado said she told Ms Arroyo, who was then with a Senate committee overseeing the Mt. Pinatubo Commission, about a complaint from a Pampanga official that Mike was "meddling" in the bidding for projects to rehabilitate the lahar-ravaged province.

"She screamed upon hearing the complaint. *Ang sabi niya, ikaw naman Ate, naniniwala ka sa mga sabi-sabi, mga paninira lahat yan* (She said, 'You shouldn't believe in hearsay, all of that is character assassination')," Salgado said.

Madrigal scion, Jamby's father, dies; 87

From page A1

tears, Senator Madrigal said that she was deeply hurt because her father, who was sick, had been dragged into a controversy he knew nothing about.

The row between the two lawmakers flared up when Senator Madrigal manifested on the Senate floor on March 13 that she wanted Enrile's criticism of her earlier privilege speech stricken off the record. Enrile objected.

She had said in her privilege speech that then President Ferdinand Marcos had lifted martial law in January 1981 to pave the way for the visit of Pope John Paul II. Enrile called her "reckless" and a "purveyor of falsehood."

Both were members of the minority bloc until Enrile forged a "working coalition" with the majority.

The elder Madrigal, whose health deteriorated last December, suddenly fell unconscious at around noon at his home on 10th Street in New Manila, according to Senator Madrigal.

"When he closed his eyes at noon, he waited for those dear to him to come and waited for the priest to finish the last rites. Then he went. There was no struggle, he went very peacefully," the senator said in a phone interview.

"As he was a peaceful man in life so he went peacefully in death," she said.

The wake will be held at the Madrigal residence. He will be buried at the family mausoleum at the Madrigal Center in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, on Saturday following the 10 a.m. Mass at the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City.

Until his death, Antonio was one of the four surviving children of Vicente Madrigal, the founder of the Madrigal business empire, and was known in Philippine society as an industrialist.

Leyte landing

With his death, only three of his siblings are still alive: Sisters Chito Madrigal-Collantes, former Sen. Pacita Madrigal and Luisa Madrigal-Vazquez.

Unknown to the young generation, Antonio was more than an industrialist, having served as aide de camp to Presidents Manuel L. Quezon and Sergio Osmeña in the 1940s.

He was part of the party of President Osmeña, Carlos P. Romulo and Gen. Douglas MacArthur that landed on the beach of Palo, Leyte, in 1944 in what is known as the "Leyte Landing," Senator Madrigal said.

"He was the last survivor in the picture of the Leyte Landing," she said, noting that her father returned to the country with MacArthur that year after joining the US Army and graduating from the infantry school at Fort Benning, Georgia, with the rank of major.

Philippine Herald publisher

The fourth of seven children, Antonio finished law and graduated cum laude from the University of Santo Tomas in 1940. He took and passed the bar in the United States in 1945, according to the senator.

He served as publisher of the family-owned Philippines Herald from the late '40s until the '60s when it was sold to businessman Andres Soriano. The newspaper was closed down in 1972 upon the declaration of martial law. It never reopened.

During martial law, he served either as chair or president of several companies, including Solid Bank, Rizal Cement and A.P. Madrigal Steamship, and as director of Susana Realty Inc. and Alabang Commercial Center.

"He made his own money. He never compromised principle for material gain even during martial law," the senator said.

Last words

In the past few days, the elder Madrigal missed his old routine and his office at the Madrigal building on the Escolta in Manila, where he worked from 1931 until November last year.

"'I want to go to work.' Those were his last words," Senator Madrigal said, recalling her last conversation with her father a few days before his death.

Apart from his integrity and devotion to work, the elder Madrigal would be remembered by his family for his deep religiosity.

"He prayed the rosary every day. He went to Mass every day. He was a very holy man," the senator said. "Lent is a good time for a prayerful man to die."

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'Pinoy Big Brother' . . .

From page A1

TV show and made the Gabriela Women's Party the beneficiary of a P1-million prize, bucked the idea of running for a seat in the House of Representatives in 2007, possibly as a nominee of the militant women's party-list group.

"I might lose time for my love life. I'm just here to help out, but that's not an obligation," she said.

Clad in white, the 36-year-old Reeves (Janet Direcho Duterte in real life) yesterday traveled to the House to visit the so-called Batasan 5.

The five militant party-list lawmakers are suspected of rebellion and have been holed up at the House for more than a month now to elude arrest.

"Their invitation for me to be here is a huge honor," Reeves said in Filipino at the site of Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran's photo exhibit at the House's north wing, where she met with Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza, Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño and Joel Virador, and Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano

Beltran, himself charged with rebellion, is detained at Camp Crame.

'Escort girl'

Reeves, a confessed "escort girl," and Gabriela have a history together.

In August 2004, Gabriela backed Reeves against brickbats from politicians and certain members of the media after she told a congressional inquiry into the "escort" trade that lawmakers were among her clients.

And Reeves has not forgotten, saying that when she was in need of support and assistance, the women's group was there for her.

"I understand their cause and I am in full support of Gabriela," she said. "And perhaps, even if I don't ask about these things, I know what they are fighting for because I wouldn't be brought here by Congresswoman Maza if we're not of the same views."

Reeves scored points among "Pinoy Big Brother" viewers for her candid remarks and down-to-earth behavior.

At one point, when actor Rustom Padilla was about to reveal that he was gay, Reeves told him to hold the thought and went to relieve herself behind a bush.

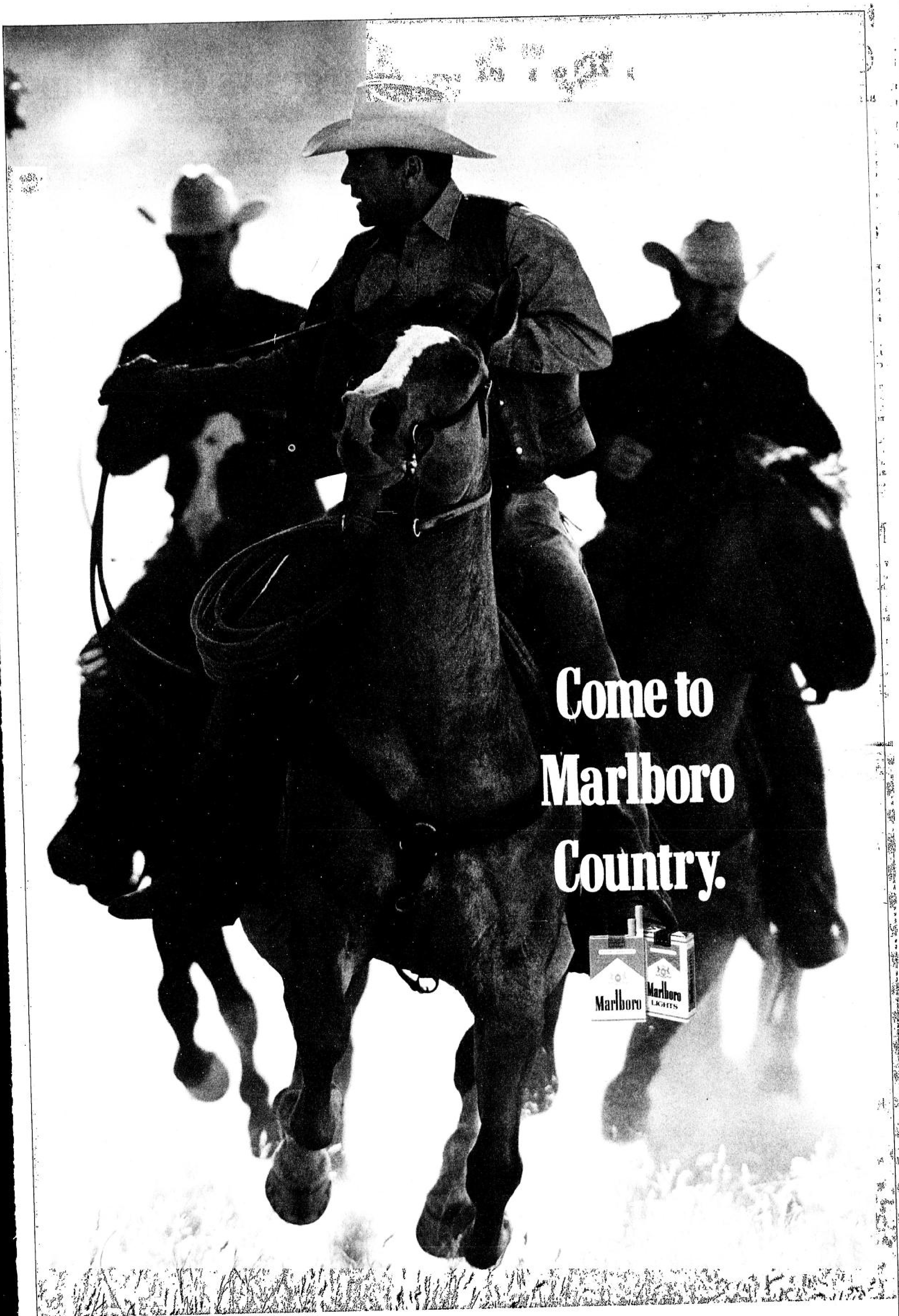
"Even if I don't have a degree, I know how to be a good person," Reeves said.

Told that President Macapagal-Arroyo would be marking a birthday today, Reeves wished her a happy one and said: "I wish that she would open her heart and understand others."

No fear

It appears that Reeves's militant friends may stay inside the House without fear of being arrested even when Congress goes on recess tomorrow.

"I have a personal decision that when Congress goes into recess on April 6, it will continue to extend the protection of the House of Representatives [to the Batasan 5] until such time that the preliminary investigation is completed," Speaker Jose de Venecia was quoted as telling representatives of the Asian Peasant Coalition (APC) on Monday evening.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Solons file 2 new perjury charges vs Garcillano

By DJ Yap

FORMER ELECTION COMMISSIONER Virgilio Garcillano has been charged anew with submitting a fake passport and perjuring himself during the House committee hearings into the "Hello Garci" scandal.

Sixteen congressmen led by Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla yesterday filed 21 counts of perjury and falsification of public documents and two counts of violation of the Passport Act against Garcillano in the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

Similar charges were filed against Garcillano two weeks ago by Sen. Panfilo Lacson and three other House members, on the strength of a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) report indicating the passport he had submitted was fake.

Remulla said the latest charges were separate from the earlier complaint but were based on the same facts.

"We are citing specific instances in which Garci perjured himself. This is much more detailed than the earlier complaint," he said at a press conference held an hour before the filing.

Lawyer Alex Avisado Jr. said it was up to the respondent Garcillano to move for the consolidation of both complaints for convenience.

He said the new complaint identified each of the 21 times Garcillano allegedly lied to the House committees when he said he never left the country after the "Hello Garci" wiretap controversy broke out in June 2005.

The wiretaps purportedly contained his voice and that of President Macapagal-Arroyo discussing her votes in the May 2004 elections.

But Laguna Rep. Justin Chipeco said the legislators were not too concerned about whether Garcillano had left or not, but whether there was an attempt by the administration to cover this up.

"The real issue is if there was a cover-up. If there was, then we should reopen the investigation on the wiretaps to determine the truth of what happened two years ago," Chipeco said.

Parañaque City Rep. Roilo Golez said there was an emerging pattern in the administration's response to the scandal: Fake CDs, fake passport and fake people's initiative.

To which the other representatives added: "And fake president."

Attached to the 19-page complaint were transcripts of the House inquiry in which Garcillano testified, as well as a copy of the BSP report which said that one of the passports he had submitted for examination was below standards.

The complainant also had a copy of a note verbale issued by Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Aug. 31, 2005, stating that Garcillano landed in the city-state on July 14 aboard a Learjet 35 and departed the following day.

If convicted, Garcillano could face a maximum prison term of 30 years and a fine of up to P300,000, lawyers said.

Perjury carries a prison term of from four to six months to six months to two years and four months, while falsification of documents carries a term of six to 12 years.

Violating the Passport Act, on the other hand, carries a penalty of six to 15 years, and a fine of P60,000 to P150,000.

The other complainants were Representatives Loretta Ann Rosales, Florencio Noel, Lorenzo Tañada III, Alfonso Umali Jr., Renato Magtubo and Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel.

Representatives Rolex Suplico, Darlene Antonino-Custodio, Teodoro Casiño, Mujiv Hataman, Imee Marcos, Francis Escudero and Rodolfo Plaza were also among the complainants, but they were not present yesterday for the filing.

They will sign the affidavit during the preliminary investigation, Avisado said.

Body of Pinoy in Bahrain sea tragedy brought home

By Nikko Dizon

GRIEVING WIDOW Lourdes Batacan awaits the arrival of her husband's body. JESS YUSON

LOURDES BATACAN GRIPPED HER EL Shaddai handkerchief—as if it were her only link to sanity—and wiped away her tears.

Sobbing loudly in the sweltering heat, she waited for the remains of her husband, Edwin, to be released from the cargo warehouse at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

Edwin Batacan, a 47-year-old geodetic engineer, was among the 58 people who drowned when their leisure boat sank off the coast of Bahrain in the Persian Gulf, last March 31.

There were three other Filipinos among the fatalities, while seven others were among the 68 who survived.

Edwin's company had treated its employees and staff to a party on the pleasure boat, Al-dana, but the celebration turned into a tragedy.

His remains arrived at 1:30 p.m. at the Naia via Gulf Air flight GF 154.

Lourdes, 43, and her sister-in-law, Estelita Hernandez, declined to speak to the media.

It was the Batacans' only child, 12-year-old Edric—eyes red and puffy from crying—who bravely answered a couple of questions from reporters.

"That's Edric without a 'K' at the end. We came from Nueva Ecija and we're going back there," the boy, who had just graduated from elementary school, said, while holding on to his grieving mother's hand.

Lourdes pulled her son to a waiting AUV to escape questions from the media.

In the confines of the vehicle, mother and son cried their hearts out when they saw the crate bearing Edwin's remains being brought out from the cargo area into a waiting van.

Edwin's cousin, Julita Velasco, told reporters that he might be buried this Sunday in the family's hometown in Dupax del Sur in Nueva Vizcaya.

"He was very kind. He was a responsible father," Julita said.

Despite being an overseas Filipino worker for many years, Edwin, the eldest in the family, was unable to save enough money because he had sent his younger siblings to school, the cousin added.

One of his sisters is now living in the United States, while a sister and a brother are immigrants in Canada.

Edwin continued to work overseas to provide for his own family, Julita said.

He had been working in Bahrain for the last two years when tragedy struck.

"She (Lourdes) said she might go back to Hong Kong or Cyprus to work again so that their son would be able to continue his studies," Julita said.

Lourdes used to work as a domestic helper in the former British colony, she added.

Corrections

IN THE MARCH 31 ISSUE, a front-page story—"UP tops bar exams again; JDV niece is No. 1"—misstated the place where the INQUIRER interviewed bar topnotcher Joan de Venecia. De Venecia was interviewed at the Court of Appeals—not at Market! Market!

* * *

IN THE APRIL 3 issue, a story on Page A10—"Mayor, others charged in alleged drug overprice"—misstated that Romulo Rodriguez Jr. is the mayor of Cagayan de Oro City. The mayor of Cagayan de Oro is Vicente Emano. Rodriguez used to be the mayor of Gingoog City, a position now occupied by Ruth de Lara-Guingona.

* * *

IN THE APRIL 3 ISSUE, a story on Page A3—"Filipino's dreams died in Bahrain"—erroneously stated that Edwin Batacan, one of those who drowned in the sinking of a luxury boat in Bahrain, was a geodetic engineer. Batacan was a geodetic engineering graduate but was not a licensed geodetic engineer, his wife said.

* * *

IN THE APRIL 3 ISSUE, a photo caption on Page A26 stated erroneously the occupation of honest airport employee Jerry Dalit. Dalit is a security guard—not a policeman.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, a photo caption on the front page misstated the school from which the Hipolito triplets graduated with honors. Gerome, Germond and Geroni Hipolito graduated from the Ponciano Bernardo High School—not the Ponciano Bernardo Elementary School.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, a photo caption on the front page identified erroneously the man seated beside management consultant Hermenegildo Estrella Jr. during the Senate inquiry into the wiretapping controversy. The person beside Estrella is Hadji Abdullah Dalidig, provincial chair of Namfrel Lanao del Sur during the 2004 elections—not Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, a front-page story—"Borra says cheating marred 2004 polls"—misstated that President Macapagal-Arroyo was impeached, and that her allies in the House of Representatives killed the impeachment process on a technicality in September 2005. Ms Arroyo was never impeached. Last September, the House dismissed the impeachment complaint against the President.

* * *

IN THE SAME STORY, the discrepancy between the number of Basilan precincts counted by Namfrel and those counted by Congress was misstated. Namfrel counted 361 precincts, while Congress counted 600 precincts, an increase of 66.20 percent, not 1.7 percent.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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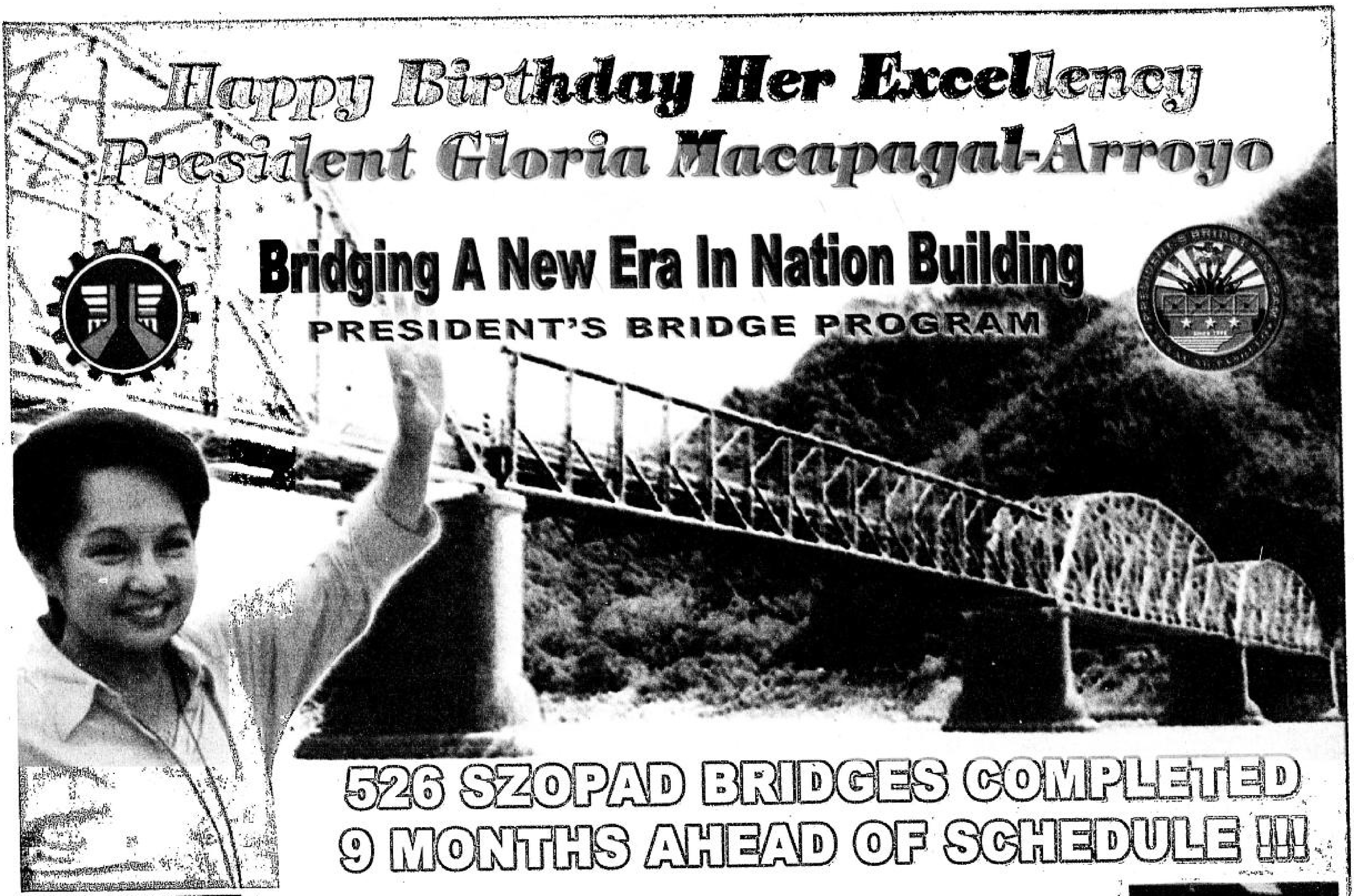

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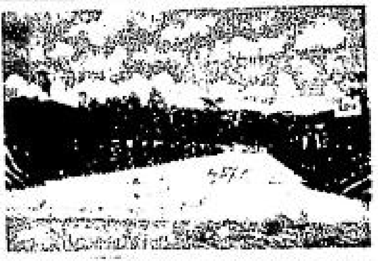

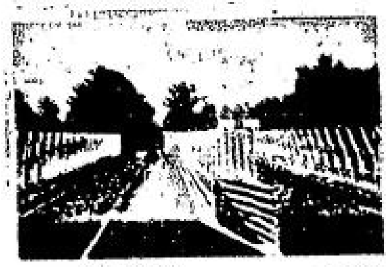

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The 526 steel bridges programmed and implemented in the Special Zone for Peace and Development (SZOPAD) have been fully completed nine months ahead of schedule and with steel bridge materials savings good for 50 more bridges.

This was the report to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of DPWH Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, Jr., Chairman of the President's Bridge Program (PBP), and PBP Executive Director Emil Sadain who joined the President on her trip to Palawan.

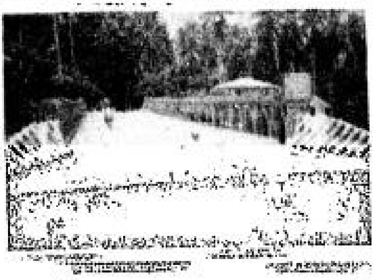
A U.K. government assisted bridge project under the President's Bridge Program, the SZOPAD steel bridges which cover the entire island of Mindanao including Palawan was started in December 2001 in response to the demand of provinces and cities neighboring the ARMM Region. Some 526 SZOPAD "Bridges of Hope" were programmed to provide the residents an increase in access to government services and upgrade their standard of living through better economic opportunities.

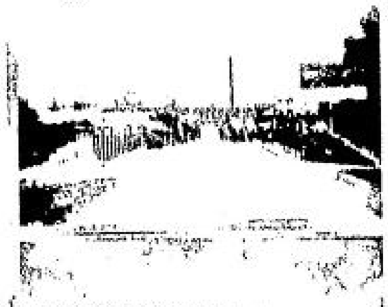
Secretary Ebdane, Jr., underscored that: "The PBP is one responsive program of the government that has been implemented with fidelity to time target and costing. Since it started, it has proceeded with no cost overruns incurred, accomplished ahead of schedule and with bridge materials savings good for 50 more bridges,"

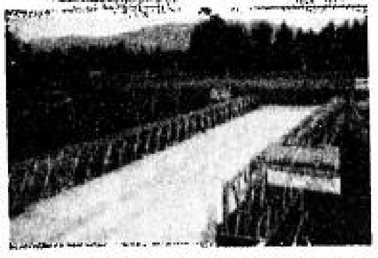
President Fidel V. Ramos started the PBP as a parallel intervention to fast track infrastructure, particularly in bridging development of newly opened areas for agricultural production. The program continued under President Estrada and speedily progressed under President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's stewardship.

The prefabricated modular steel bridging for the PBP is supplied by Mabey & Johnson, the UK's sole manufacturer of modular steel panel bridge systems. It uses the most advanced state-of-the-art robotic processes to produce a permanent and maintenance-free bridge product to the highest quality standards.

The implementation of PBP is now under the able Chairmanship of DPWH Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, Jr. who has accelerated the program with remarkable accomplishment.







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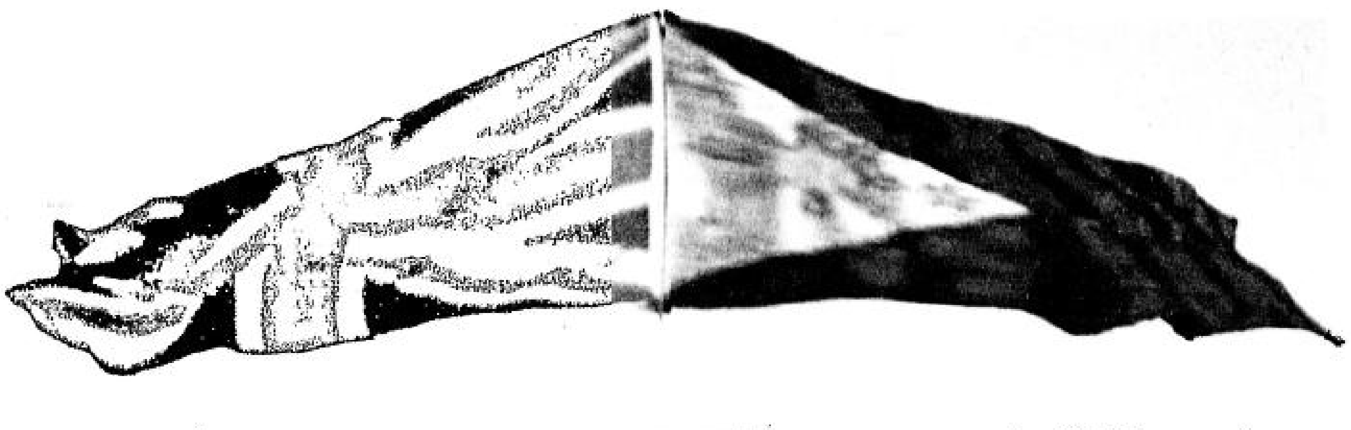

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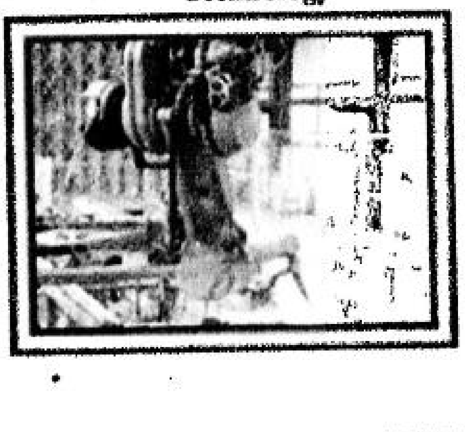

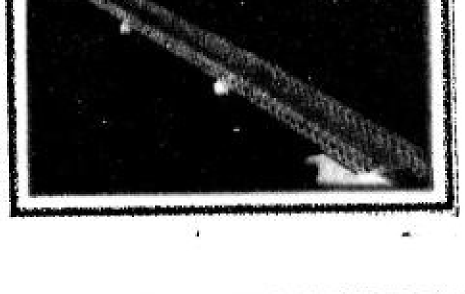

Antiterror bill OKd; no death penalty

By Norman Bordadora

RUSHING ITS WORK BEFORE THE Holy Week break, the House of Representatives last night approved on second reading the antiterror bill defining and penalizing terrorist acts.

One of the major amendments provides that an act of terror will no longer be punished with death, as proposed in many previous versions of the legislation since the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attack on the US.

Those found guilty of terrorism will be meted out life imprisonment and fines ranging from P5 million to P10 million.

After a period of amendments, the House plenary voting *viva voce* approved House Bill No. 4839 that defines terrorism in part as the "premeditated, threatened or actual use of violence or force or any other means that deliberately tend to cause or actually cause massive harm to persons."

"It's good as passed," said Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, one of those who sponsored the bill on the floor last night.

The only thing still to be done is a nominal voting that the bill will go through on third and final reading, which is considered a mere formality.

Lagman added that those who commit heinous crimes, such as multiple murder in the furtherance of terrorism, would also no longer be penalized with the capital punishment. Their maximum penalty would be life imprisonment.

Under the bill, terrorism is committed by "any person or group of persons ... who with intent to create or sow danger, panic, fear or chaos to the general public or segment thereof, or to coerce or intimidate the government to do or to refrain from doing an act through premeditated, threatened, or actual use of force, violence or other means of destruction, commits the following acts:

1) Threatening or causing death or serious bodily harm;

2) Threatening or causing serous risk to health or safety of the public or any segment of the public;

3) Threatening or causing substantial damage or wanton destruction or resorting to arson on critical infrastructure or property, private or public;

4) Causing serious or unlawful interference with a serious unlawful disruption of essential service.

Other acts that may be categorized as in pursuit of terrorism include hijacking, kidnapping or threatening to kidnap, killing an internationally protected person, attacking or threatening to attack cyberspace, willfully destroying the environment and natural resources, unlawfully processing chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear agents, and unlawfully processing explosives and projectiles.

DFA doubts Somalia hijacking report

By Volt Contreras

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFfairs (DFA) yesterday raised doubts about media reports that armed pirates had hijacked an oil tanker off the coast of Somalia on March 29 and were holding its crewmembers—including 19 Filipinos—for ransom.

DFA spokesman Gilberto Asuque said the Philippine Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya (which also covers Somalia), as well as the United Nations security officials in the region, did not receive any report on the alleged incident.

Asuque was quoting an April 3 communication from Philippine Charge d'Affaires in Nairobi Bernarditas Muller, who had made inquiries with Joe Gordon, chief security adviser of the UN Field Security Coordination Office in Somalia.

Muller also noted that even the Nairobi media had "no news" of the alleged hijacking, Asuque told reporters.

Don't hike tuition, state schools told

THE COMMISSION on Higher Education (CHEd) has ordered all state colleges and universities not to raise tuition and other fees this school year.

CHEd chair Carlito Puno gave the order in a memorandum dated March 30.

Puno in the memo said he was disallowing tuition hikes "to make higher education more accessible to a greater number of Filipino college students."

At the same time, he said CHEd was expanding its student financial assistance program, or the "Study Now Pay Later" plan, after Malacañang earmarked P250 million for it.

He said the money would be divided as follows: P100 million for the Catholic Education Association of the Philippines, P100 million for the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities, P30 million for the Association of Christian Schools Colleges and Universities and P20 million for the Philippine Association of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities.

These organizations will pick, test and screen deserving beneficiaries of the funds, Puno said.

"The CHEd has also worked out ways to ensure that the loans shall be paid accordingly by the beneficiaries after graduation through a new monitoring scheme. This shall be given top priority to ensure the continuity of the program, which will be available to future college freshmen students," Puno said.

He said the program was "designed to promote democratization of access to education opportunities in the tertiary level to poor but deserving students." *Alcuin Papa*

Painter's son dies

RITCHIE ANTONIO Tagle, 41, the son of the late Celia and painter E.R. Tagle, died April 2 at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI) from heart failure while undergoing kidney dialysis. Ritchie, also a painter known for his paintings of "Tres Ballerinas" and "Mother and Child" series, had been undergoing dialysis for the last seven years.

His cremated remains lie at the Don Bosco Chapel on Arnaiz Street (Pasay Road), Makati City from April 4 to April 5. There will be a memorial service at 7 p.m. today by Pastor Benjie de Jesus.

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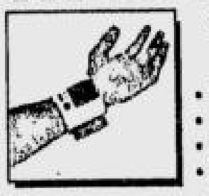

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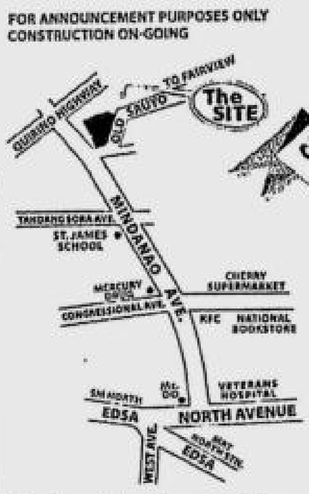

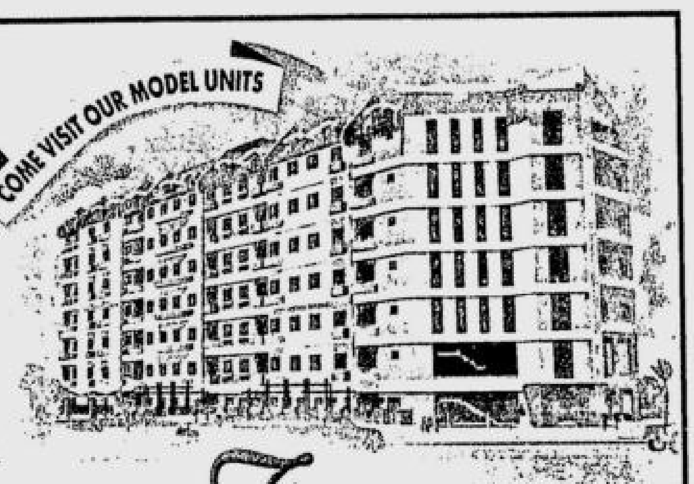
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BALCONY CABIN $1,201.00 $ 2,101.00
3rd/4th Passenger $ 281.00 $ 1,181.00
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OCEAN VIEW CABIN $ 870.00 $2,070.00
3rd/4th Passenger $ 360.00 $1,560.00
PORT CHARGES: $ 178.80 per Person

● 7N WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE (MCO RT)
Onboard Royal Caribbean's "MARINER OF THE SEAS"
SAILING DATE: 07 May 2006
Starting From: CRUISE ONLY FLY/CRUISE
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OCEAN VIEW CABIN $ 870.00 $2,070.00
3rd/4th Passenger $ 360.00 $1,560.00
PORT CHARGES: $ 181.80 per Person

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● 7N ALASKA SOUTHBOUND CRUISE (SEW-YVR)
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SAILING DATE: 27 May 2006
Starting From: CRUISE ONLY
INTERIOR CABIN $ 695.00
OCEAN VIEW CABIN $1,240.00
3rd/4th Passenger $ 400.00
PORT CHARGES: $254.00 per Person

● 5N ALASKA CRUISE (LAX-YVR)
Onboard Royal Caribbean's "VISION OF THE SEAS"
SAILING DATE: 07 May 2006
Starting From: CRUISE ONLY FLY/CRUISE
INTERIOR CABIN $ 370.00 $1,270.00
OCEAN VIEW CABIN $ 490.00 $1,390.00
BALCONY CABIN $ 830.00 $1,730.00
3rd/4th Passenger $ 280.00 $1,180.00
PORT CHARGES: $163.61 per Person

● 7N ALASKA HUBBARD GLACIER CRUISE (SEA RT)
Onboard Royal Caribbean's "VISION OF THE SEAS"
SAILING DATE: 19 May & 26 May 2006
Starting From: CRUISE ONLY FLY/CRUISE
INTERIOR CABIN $ 809.00 $1,859.00
OCEAN VIEW CABIN $1,328.00 $2,378.00
3rd/4th Passenger $ 379.00 $1,429.00
PORT CHARGES: $ 225.60 per Person

● 7N ALASKA HUBBARD GLACIER CRUISE (SEA RT)
Onboard Celebrity's "MERCURY"
SAILING DATE: 19 May & 26 May 2006
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INTERIOR CABIN $ 760.00 $1,810.00
OCEAN VIEW CABIN $1,230.00 $2,280.00
3rd/4th Passenger $ 330.00 $1,380.00
PORT CHARGES: $ 214.65 per Person

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Anti-biotic (Kontra-Bakterya)				
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DLI Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	4.40	15.75	11.35/cap
DLI Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	54.00	144.00	90.00/bot
DLI Ampicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	7.70	14.15	6.45/cap
DLI Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓	3.70	37.75	34.05/cap
DLI Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓	2.70	26.00	23.30/tab
DLI Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓	2.50	14.80	12.30/cap
DLI Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	✓	31.00	115.75	84.75/bot
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DLI Carbocisteine cap. 500 mg	✓	2.50	12.25	9.75/cap
DLI Carbocisteine susp. 100 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	29.00	87.25	58.25/bot
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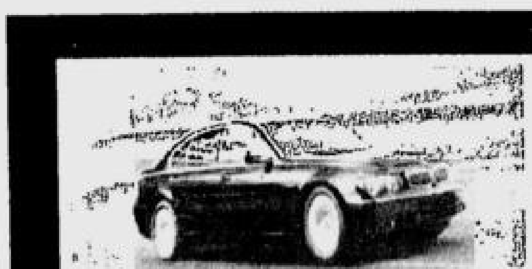

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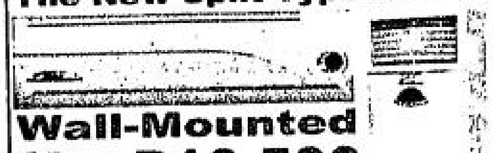

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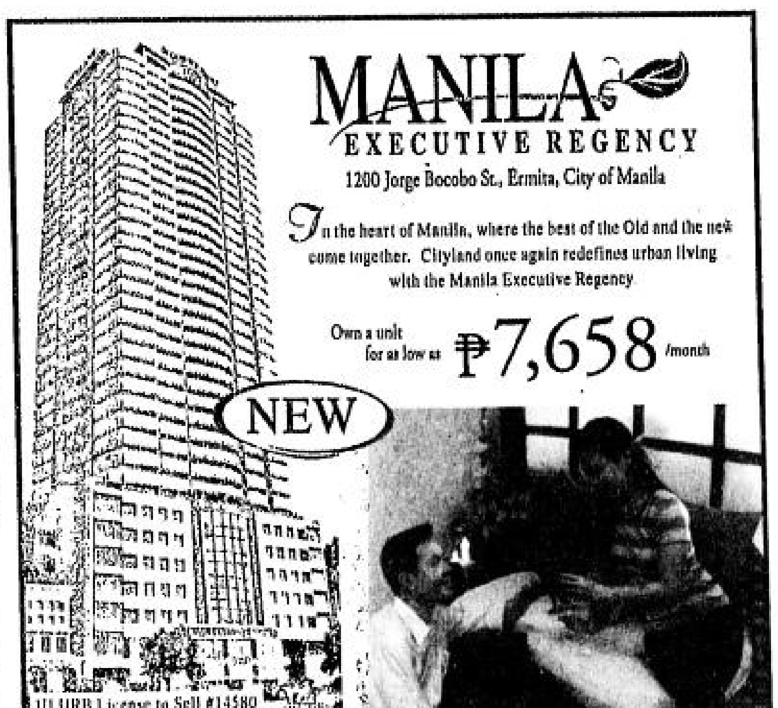

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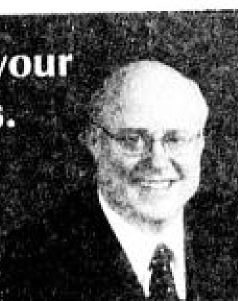

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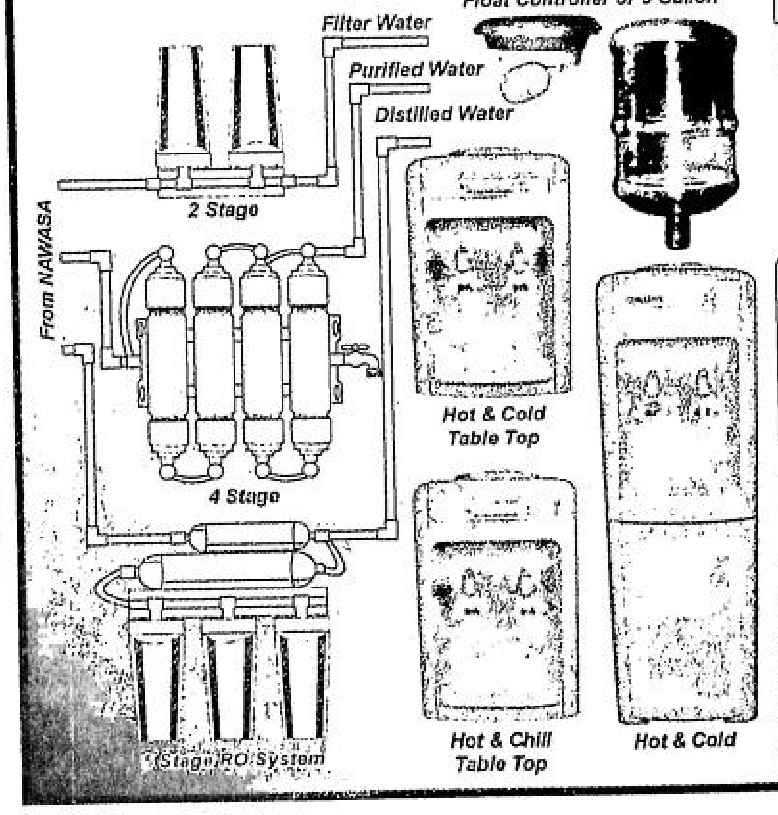

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MESSAGE

We are happy to mark our 6th year in the Philippines as TCL gains increasing acceptance among Filipino households. It has not been an easy road for the brand but I must say that every step of collective hard work and perseverance was worth it!

TCL opens a new life for all who aspire to have the best of entertainment technology in their homes: state-of-the art television sets meant to be conveniently enjoyed by every member of the family. Our high technology Colored TV, LCD, Plasma, Slim and Flat TVs with interesting features and in stereo, are at par with today's international standards.

We are most especially grateful to our dealers for their invaluable support. Indeed, their concerted individual efforts have paved the way for TCL's phenomenal entry into the local market as a preferred brand to carry.

Suffice it to say that our brand's significant and meaningful success in the country continues to inspire TCL in bringing to you only the best possibilities that we can offer. 6 years and beyond!

ALEX M. ESPIRITU
President
TCL SUN INC.

MESSAGE

It is an honor for me to be with TCL Sun Inc. and a great pleasure to be part of its dynamic team in the Philippines. What the brand has achieved thus far, symbolizes the triumph of the human spirit to aim for great possibilities by nurturing good values and inherent strengths within the company.

On its 6th year, TCL shares with Filipino households its passion for quality innovations that put its name among the world's best in home entertainment and lifestyle conveniences. I am glad to note that the brand has become one of the top players in the local TV industry and provides the much-sought after "value for money" with its high quality and affordability.

I wish TCL more success in its future endeavors as we hope for the continued support of our dealers and the Filipino people.

Mabuhay!

Xiaodong Wu

XIAODONG WU
Executive Vice President
TCL SUN INC.

MESSAGE

On its 6th anniversary, nothing can be farther from the truth that TCL has indeed arrived here in the Philippines. After initially serving as company president until my new assignment in TCL Corporation Overseas SBU two years ago, I am pleased to see good signs of a brighter future for the brand.

TCL has become the most successful producer and provider of electronic products with abundant potential as one of the leading names in the global TV market. Since TCL Overseas SBU is tasked to be the main force to explore these overseas markets, we are determined to pursue those dreams by working for their realization through high quality research and design technology.

As we commemorate 6 years of brand presence in the Philippines, we are working to bring more support locally through a diversified quality product line-up that will endear TCL closer to our customers through values, employment opportunities and benefits for society.

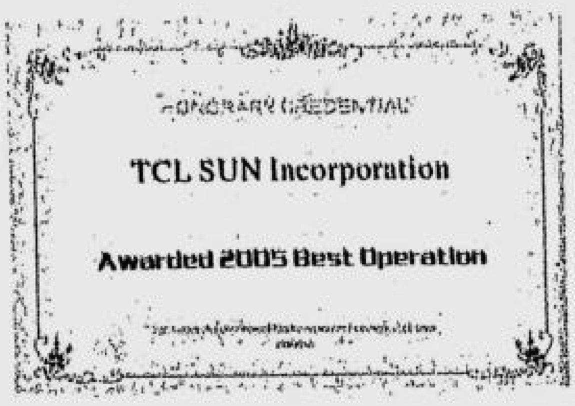
Our special thanks for your wholehearted support!

EMMANUEL T. VALENCIA
Business Development Director
TCL Corporation Overseas SBU

Moving Forward

The world does not run out of success stories. TCL's emergence as the global brand that it is today is made even more formidable considering its early beginnings as a business enterprise of cassette production back in the mid 80's.

Looking back, TCL has always been marching forward and top management can only be grateful for all the opportunities that have come its way. Committed to expand internationally, it bought out two reputed brands, Germany's "Schneider" in 2002 and GO-Video in 2003, followed by yet another breakthrough, its joint venture with Thomson Electronics in France.



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Awarded 2005 Best Operation

The company is, indeed, a major international competitive player with Thomson in Europe, RCA in U.S.A. and TCL in Asia in its fold.

The Philippines is regarded as a key leadership market for TCL. Six years of phenomenal growth has brought it inside the elite circle of the country's top performers in the TV market, clinching a record of strong dealers' support and gaining Filipino consumers' acceptance.

TCL's entry into the top 5 local TV market is indeed remarkable considering that this was achieved in a short period of 5 years. Last year alone, it achieved 90% attainment of its own target and close to 40% growth over its previous year's performance. That it survived the recent economic and political uncertainties, speaks a lot of its tenacity, indicating that indeed, TCL in the Philippines is on its way up the leadership ladder.

Spirit of Innovations in Emerging Markets

TCL recognizes the ability to create innovations via high technology. It is committed to provide customers with diversified products internationally, putting hundreds of new models every year in many parts of the globe. In recent years, TCL has produced Plasma TVs, LCD-DVD TVs, Satellite TV sets, Slim Flat TVs, digital video and digital camera, many of which are ahead of similar products that are out in the market. In 2004, TCL launched the world's lightest, slimmest and biggest DLP TV.

Taking pride in its hard-earned stature as a top television brand in the country, TCL is determined to bring its diversity right here in the Philippines. The Slim/Flat TV with its outstanding features are ideal for Filipino households who want more from their home entertainment sets. One can't go wrong with the brand's LCD, Plasma and Satellite TVs and digital camera with prices that are music to the ears. TCL offers the advantage of affordability and good service for their quality products.

Wel
TCL
My New Favourite

N, INC.
ue Technology

6 Years
of
Value Technology

"2005 Best Operations"

Company president Alex M. Espiritu, himself an awardee as excellent overseas manager for two (2) consecutive years, takes charge of country operations together with executive vice president Xiaodong Wu, to guide and ensure efficient company management. Both executives are elated over the many recognitions that have been bestowed upon TCL Sun Inc.

The "2005 Best Operations" Award is a solid testimony to the distinguished performance of the brand in the Philippines, besting 16 other countries overseas. It shows how its mother company appreciates the significant contribution that TCL in this part of Asia makes to achieve its overall global performance by generating commendable sales, adhering to company policies and living up to its ideals, visions and corporate commitments.

Individual sales and marketing executives have likewise been receiving awards and commendations from TCL's headquarters, boosting their drive to excel and work together as a dynamic team.

After all, creating a world class corporation is not just about high technology and excellent products. It is also about good people within the organization, harnessing their capabilities, encouraging their own dreams and more importantly, recognizing their potentials to grow and become excellent leaders in their own right.

TCL Sun Management Team
Left to right: Alex M. Espiritu, President; Xiaodong Wu, Executive Vice-President; Sunny Xiang, Chief Finance Officer

TCL Sales Managers Left to right: Enrico S. Cunanan, Laureano S. Danan Jr., William Frederick M. Pascual, Allan Dean E. Aguila, Rogelio B. Ferrer

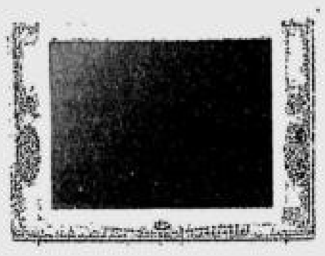
come to a new life
TCL
TCL
TCL21H-20
Slimflat
Distributed by: TCL Sun, Inc.

TCL-Thomson Electronics Market Business Center (TTE EMBC) Support Inspires

TTE EMBC is the main force for exploring overseas markets. It is constantly working on the process of making dreams turn into innovations and reality to build up TCL's international image. By improving integrated management skills and resources, TTE EMBC has constructed a global and highly efficient supply chain system and marketing service net.

TTE EMBC's support for local bases is integral to the worldwide success of TCL. It works hand in hand with local operations in exploring possibilities and catching opportunities that will inspire the entire corporate team to greater heights.

Former president Emmanuel T. Valencia, now business development director for TCL Corporation Overseas SBU, reiterates the strong emphasis of facilitating R&D, manufacturing, sales and service globalization, as the right way for TCL products to achieve a world standard, and deliver the TCL brand values and benefits to consumers successfully.



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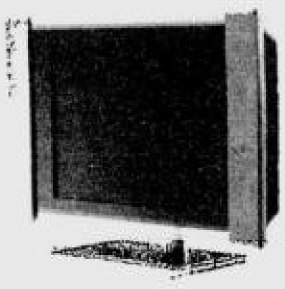

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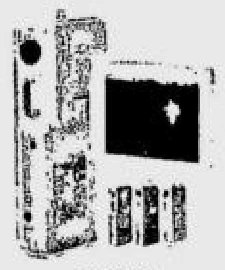

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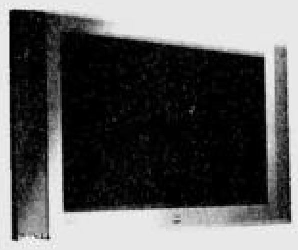

PLASMA

ICEMAKER

WASHING MACHINE

TCL TV: "My New Favourite"

Being an emerging leader brings TCL closer to the consciousness of an enlightened Filipino customer. At the rate the brand is gaining wider acceptance and getting increasing support from existing and new dealers, TCL is fast becoming known as "My New Favourite". Interesting features come with every product for an equally interesting, real-life entertainment experience. It is reflective of the value technology that has been brought in locally for six solid years.

A Bright Look Into the Future

In so short a time, it can be said that TCL has made the right moves and taken positive strides to find its place in the sun.

TCL has many stories to tell in all the many countries where it operates. But perhaps, the Philippine success story of diligent work, management teamwork and strong adherence to value technology is a more endearing story because it is closer to home.

On its 6th anniversary, expect more innovations, more value benefits and more exciting developments as TCL welcomes everybody to experience a new life!

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OPINION

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Lost referendum

EDITORIAL

THAILAND IS IN SHOCK. AS THE RESULTS OF THE parliamentary elections called by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to renew his mandate came in, it became clear that the boycott and abstention movement had succeeded. The results exceeded even the wildest expectations of oppositionists, according to the Thai newspaper The Nation. Thai election rules require candidates in uncontested districts to achieve at least 20 percent of the vote to enter parliament. The boycott resulted in many seats remaining unfilled and so the new parliament cannot convene. Thaksin has neither a mandate nor a parliament to re-elect him prime minister. Follow-up elections now have to take place to fill those empty seats.

Analysts say several factors contributed to the success of the boycott campaign and the failure of Thaksin's confidence in both the machinery of his party and his support in the countryside. The first was the relentless expressions of people power in Bangkok which remained peaceful to the end. The second was that a well-organized publicity stunt, like Thaksin going to an open market to mingle with the electorate, got derailed by indignant citizens shouting "Thaksin, get out!" The third was a relatively small (by opposition standards) administration-organized rally to besiege the offices of The Nation, which galvanized the Thai media and the public. The fourth was another rally that evening in which Thaksin's supporters pelted oppositionists with rotten eggs and stones, in marked contrast to the peaceful and organized protests of the opposition. Finally, last Sunday, election day, a noted academic defiantly tore up his ballot in full view of the cameras, emboldening other Thais to do the same. The professor was arrested and put in jail.

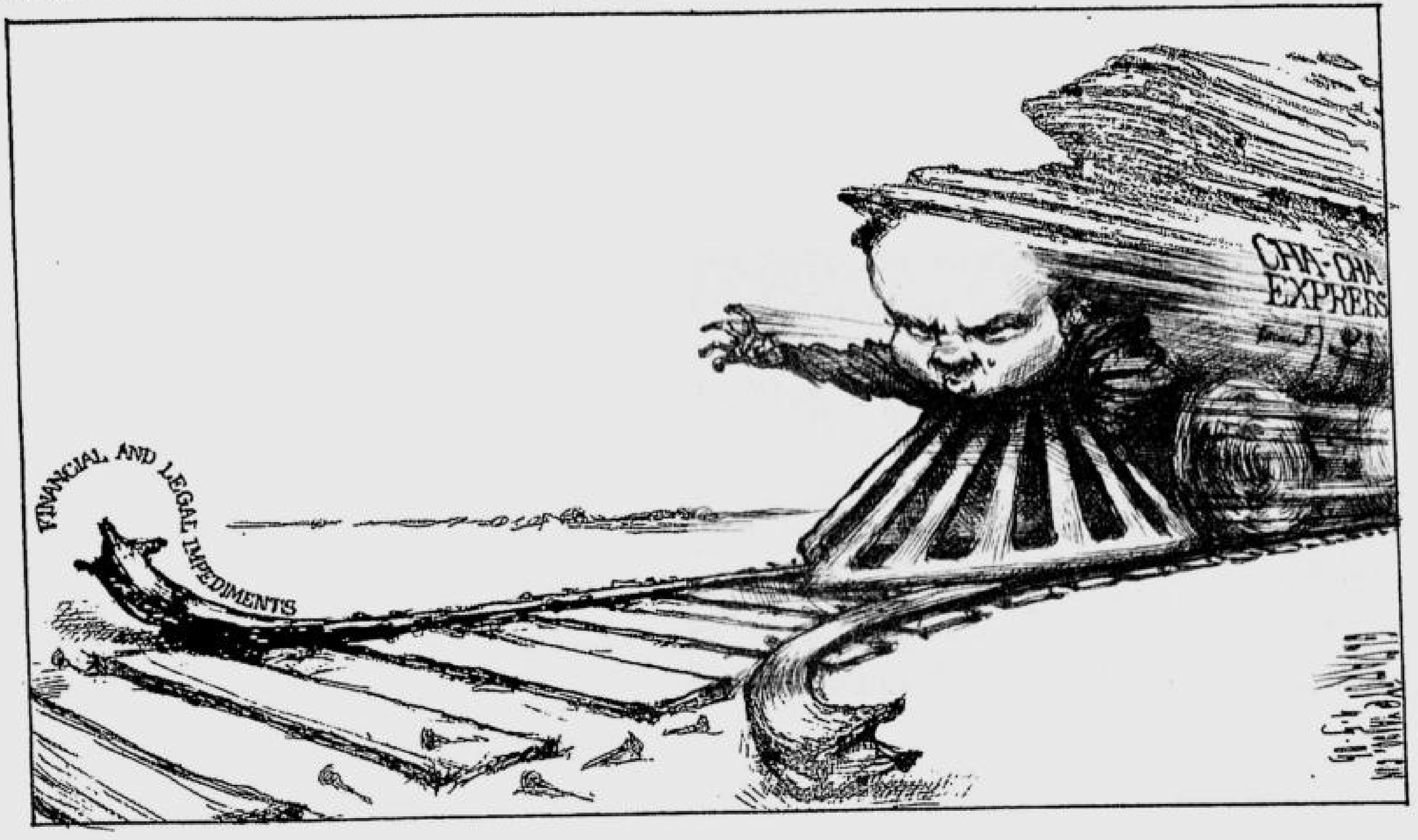
Still, Thaksin remains defiant, claiming 16 million votes for his party (3 million less than what the party got in the previous election) versus the 10 million who abstained. He had earlier vowed to step down if his party failed to obtain 50 percent of the vote. On Monday night, he declared that he had achieved that percentage. And though his parliamentary majority was down to 349 seats from 377 seats last year, he defiantly pointed out that he retains a healthy majority. The problem is that Thailand's Constitution requires all the seats in the House of Representatives (the lower house of Thailand's bicameral parliament) to be filled before parliament can meet.

But Thaksin's bravura can't overshadow what has put Thailand in shock: not only have so many voted essentially for "none of the above" but so few of Thaksin's candidates got more votes than the negative votes (Thais have an option to check "no vote" on their ballots, which is tantamount to "none of the above" or abstention or boycott since not voting is a crime). In Bangkok, for example, only nine of Thaksin's candidates got more votes than the negative votes: 51 percent of Bangkok voters checked the "no vote" box on their ballots.

Thaksin has proposed the creation of a "reconciliation commission" to help find a solution to the parliamentary impasse. The panel would be composed of three former presidents of parliament, three former Supreme Court presidents, three former prime ministers and rectors of state universities. Thaksin says he will resign if the commission recommends that he do so to restore national unity. He has even proposed four potential successors.

At the same time, Thaksin continues to make defiant statements, referring to the Bush-Gore fight in the United States, and asking, "Tell me how the country would be better off without me. There must be good reasons for me to stay or quit. The 16 million should be told how the country will be reconciled if I step down."

Still, Thaksin might step down since he has lost what was billed as a referendum on his government and failed to get the new mandate he wanted. If, for example, in the contested parliamentary seats, oppositionists prevent any candidate from achieving 20 percent, he would be hard put to justify the formation of a government. Then the crisis will continue, and deepen. Which leads to the question: Will he go peacefully, or not?



Back to the drawing board for PCSO on STL

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

HERE'S BAD NEWS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT officials and employees, policemen and soldiers: Contrary to what has been implied in statements of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), they won't get a single centavo, personally, from the share of local government units (LGUs) from the income of the small town lottery (STL). The LGU shares, said lawyers Paul Lentejas, PCSO spokesperson and legal consultant, and Lauro Patiag, manager of the legal department, are supposed to be spent for their charity projects. It would be illegal to use them to give higher salaries or allowances, they said at the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday.

What this means is that they would not benefit directly from STL and would still be susceptible to bribes from *jueteng* lords to look the other way or even work for them when they resume parallel jueteng operations. Those who would benefit are the jueteng lords, their *cobradores* and *cabos* who would be employed but still be under the influence of their old bosses, the gambling operators, and those who would accept the bribes.

In other words, we would be back where we started: illegal jueteng would continue to corrupt government personnel, now including officials of the PCSO who would decide whom to bless with STL franchises. And in most cases, they would be run by the same jueteng lords using dummies. In fact, dummies may not even be necessary because under the PCSO rules, jueteng lords are not forbidden from applying for franchises. They have the advantage over others, too, because they have the experience and the capital (at least P15 million) to operate in a city or municipality. The only difference is that jueteng has been legalized and the gambling lords have been given a cover for their colorum jueteng operations.

A cobrador can be collecting bets for STL and at the same time collecting for jueteng. If caught, he can claim he is working for STL and has the identification card to support it. In other words, the PCSO has just rewarded the recidivist lawbreakers, the jueteng lords, with legitimacy.

Not only that, colorum jueteng can easily eat into the earnings of STL or even kill it. In the first place, jueteng has only 37 numbers to choose from while STL has 40, and so the chances of winning is bigger in jueteng. The minimum bet for STL is 50 centavos, but for jueteng it is only 25 centavos. And instead of having only three STL draws a day, jueteng can have four or more.

Also, jueteng can offer bigger prizes. Its draws are made in secret or not at all, and the operator just chooses the combination with the smallest bet, so he can afford to give bigger prizes. Or the cobradores can push harder for jueteng instead of STL.

What I am saying is that STL, as formulated by the PCSO, won't kill jueteng which is the justification for STL. The latter was proposed by anti-jueteng czar Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn to provide employment to the thousands of people who would be made jobless by the eradication of jueteng. His proposal was endorsed by the mayors and governors who were under the impression that the policemen and LGU personnel who were being bribed by jueteng lords would be legally given commissions by STL.

That is not correct, according to Lentejas and Patiag. The PCSO management shot down Hagedorn's original proposal, for reasons people with dirty minds have already guessed. Washing his hands of the STL business, Hagedorn went home disappointed because he would lose face with his fellow mayors who thought they would be the ones operating STL. President Macapagal-Arroyo followed him to Puerto Princesa and asked him to serve as anti-jueteng czar again, but Hagedorn was still hurting and staying away as of Monday.

I had lunch with Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno last Saturday and I told him about Hagedorn's original proposal. He said it was a good idea but it was the first time he heard of it. I said it had been shot down by the PCSO. He said he would talk to Hagedorn and endorse it.

Can the PCSO still change its rules? Lentejas and Patiag said, "Of course. After all, STL is still experimental and will be adjusted as needed."

There is another good reason why STL should be run by the LGUs and not by private franchise holders, a.k.a. the old jueteng lords. Only a portion of the collections from the numbers game go back to the economy of the city or municipality, in the form of commissions to the cobradores and cabos, the shares of the LGU and the police, etc. But at least a third goes to the operator who takes it out of the municipality's economy and deposits it in the bank or spends it elsewhere. In the case of franchise holders who are *balikbayans*, like the ones in Quezon City, they would even take their profits out of the Philippines.

Remember that there are at least three draws daily. So almost one whole day's income from STL would be taken out of the local economy daily. Multiply that by 7 days a week, 30 days a month, 365 days a year, times the number of cities and municipalities with STL, and that would add up to hundreds of billions of pesos siphoned out of the economy. In no time at all, the economy would be deprived of capital.

On the other hand, if LGUs operate STL, all the collections would go back to the people in the form of social services, wages, commissions, etc., and hence back to the economy.

I think the PCSO should go back to the drawing board.

Choices

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

I SAW A COUPLE OF TV PROGRAMS WHERE the panel representing the camp opposing Charter change exhorted the voters to defend their right to choose their leader. In a parliamentary system, they said, the voters will no longer directly choose their prime minister, only the members of Parliament will. Only in a presidential system do the voters directly vote for their president.

That is silly, and shows only what's wrong with Cha-cha in the first place. The real choice is not between a parliamentary system and a presidential system, it is between dictatorship and democracy. The real choice is not between directly voting for a president or voting indirectly for a prime minister, the real choice is between being able to vote or not being able to vote at all—or what is but the same thing, between having one's vote counted and not having one's vote counted at all. The real choice is not which type of system responds more to the citizens' needs, it is which leaders the citizens want: those they voted for or those who are merely imposing themselves on them.

If you do not have elections where your votes are counted, it doesn't matter a hoot whether you have a presidential system or a parliamentary one. Neither is a democracy, both are a tyranny. Your voice will not be heard, your need will not be met. Ferdinand Marcos had a presidential and parliamentary system at the same time during martial law (he was both president and prime minister), which is what Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo also wants, and no one seriously asked then whether we were under a presidential or parliamentary system. Everyone knew we were under a dictatorship. Fake elections are as much a forcible wresting of power, or an outright coup, as martial law. You have fake elections, the only choice that presents itself to you is whether you are going to exert yourself to oust the usurper or be a damn fool and tolerate her.

Lest we forget, that is the root of the problem, for which Cha-cha is being touted as the answer. We have a crisis of government because, as the Marines and Navy have been saying for some time now (and they ought to know because they were ordered to do it), the current occupant of Malacañang rigged the elections in Muslim Mindanao. For saying which, they have been gagged generally and several of them have been court-martialed. We have a crisis of government because, as every Filipino knows, GMA called up Virgilio Garcillano in the middle of the counting of ballots to demand that she win by a margin of at least one million votes. Which has since become the National Ringtone, "Hello Garci."

You have an election for prime minister and the members of parliament where the Comelec counts only the votes produced by one person or group of persons (look at the electoral returns from as far apart as Pampanga and Tawi-Tawi and see if they were not tabulated by only one hand, or group of hands), you do not have a parliamentary system, you have a dictatorship. You have an election for president and the members of the Senate and House of Representatives where the Comelec counts only the votes produced by one dog or group of dogs (look at the thumbprints in some of those same electoral forms, and see if they were made by human fingers), you do not have a presidential system, you have a joke.

The reference to Marcos and martial law is not accidental, it is deliberate. The current move to change the Constitution is a throwback to Marcos and martial law. I recall that Marcos held several plebiscites then, a couple of them having to do with Charter change and the National Assembly, though now only vaguely the way they formulated the questions. What I recall more clearly is that IBP, the acronym for Interim Batasang Pambansa, which was the legislative body the public was being asked to take seriously, became more famous in reference to Ihaw Balot Plaza, which was the place poets in Tagalog went to for serious drinking.

As far as I can recall, the questions the martial law plebiscites asked were: "Do you approve of the shift from a presidential to a parliamentary system? Do you want Marcos to exercise the powers of both president and prime minister? Do you want Marcos to be assisted in making laws by a National Assembly?" Or words to that effect.

None of them asked: "Do you approve of martial law? Do you want Marcos to lift martial law and bring back genuine elections? Do you want Marcos to **not** have any powers but just go away and leave us well enough alone? Do you want the citizens to simply be able to vote, never mind if they are senators and congressmen or MPs?"

The latter set was clearly the real choices, and the first completely false ones. But just to be sure, even within the narrow parameters of the questions, Marcos had the counting done by Garci's mentor, Leonardo Perez. The result was the statistical improbability of the citizens saying "yes" by as much as 99 percent. The Philippine Daily Express promptly called it "unprecedented," and it was not entirely wrong. It had no precedent and would have no antecedent—until now.

The only questions that need to be asked in a plebiscite today are: "Do you believe GMA won the elections? Do you believe she should disappear and leave us well enough alone? Do you believe we should have elections to determine a genuine president or prime minister?"

No one ever took the martial law plebiscites seriously. Everyone knew the choice was not between presidential or parliamentary, it was between dictatorship and democracy. It was not between one National Assembly or two legislative houses, it was between a legitimate ruler and an illegitimate one. It was not between local autonomy or no local autonomy, it was between Marcos or no Marcos.

Substitute "GMA" for "Marcos," and you have exactly the same thing today.

Power vacuum after Thai polls

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THAI PRIME MINISTER THAKSIN SHINAWATRA has claimed victory in last Sunday's snap election, saying that his Thai Rak Thai party has won 57 percent of the vote in a poll he called in the hope that it would give his scandal-ridden government a fresh mandate and resolve the country's political crisis.

But the claim falls flat in the face of still unofficial results tending to show that he has won an empty victory. Worse, the results show a strong "no" vote that could prevent him from forming a new government, despite the fact that his party ran unopposed in 278 of the country's 400 constituencies after the main opposition parties refused to put up candidates.

The opposition parties—Democrat Party, Chart Thai Party and Mahachon Party, grouped around the People's Alliance for Democracy—staged the boycott campaign within the framework of Thailand's constitutional system after their "people power" street protests demanding the resignation of Thaksin since last January had failed to dislodge him.

Thaksin has pointed out that 16 million Thais voted for his party, down from 19 million in last year's election, and that it won 349 seats, down from 377. On the face of it, Thaksin's party appears to have won a reduced parliamentary majority. But the "no" vote gave him a resounding slap and opened the door to further political instability and left a power vacuum. As one commentator said, neither side scored "a knockout blow," and the poll results continued the political stand-off.

The election results in Bangkok, the center of the street campaign to oust Thaksin, show the "no" vote (for abstention) won by 50.1 percent to 45.9 percent, and this spells trouble for Thaksin. Under the Thai constitution and electoral law, one party-election is allowed in unopposed constituencies, but to win a seat, the party (i.e., Thaksin's party) that fielded candidates must get at least 20 percent of all eligible votes. According to observers, Thai Rak Thai might have difficulty reaching that target in at least 60 constituencies.

The bigger problem is that under the Thai constitution, all the 500 seats in the lower house must be filled before parliament can convene to elect a prime minister and form a government within 30 days of the election. Thaksin's candidates in 38 constituencies, all opposition strongholds in Bangkok and in the south, failed to win 20 percent of the vote needed to become MPs. This means that by-elections must be called to satisfy the requirement of filling all the 500 parliamentary seats so that parliament can convene legally.

The Election Commission has warned that a new election might not produce a parliament. The results of Sunday's polls show that the opposition's boycott campaign had strong support in Bangkok, stronghold of the Democrat Party, and in the south. Thaksin received strong support in the north and northeast, which have benefited from the generous social welfare and economic assistance programs of his government.

The Thai people had little choice in the election—either they go for Thaksin's party or nothing at all—because the boycott by the main opposition parties left many constituencies with only one choice.

The election also did not give Thaksin a new cloak of legitimacy, in the wake of a corruption scandal and accusations of abuse of power. Thaksin had called the snap election three years ahead of schedule after he came under increasing pressure from the streets starting in January this year.

Popular unrest came to a head when his family decided to sell its shares in one of Thailand's telecom groups, Shin Corp., for $1.9 billion, tax-free. Critics have accused him of tax dodging and betraying the nation by selling an important national asset to a company owned by the Singaporean government. This outraged people mostly in Bangkok and sparked demonstrations that sent up 100,000 protesters to the streets to demand his resignation.

Put to the test was the issue of whether or not a new election would resolve the crisis of legitimacy. Given Thailand's electoral system, a pertinent point is made by an academic at Chulalongkorn University that "an election usually determines the future of a country but no one's sure whether this election will decide anything." An opposition leader said the only certain outcome of the poll would be to show there were "still many problems ahead." Some commentators said the poll was a "seriously flawed election that really won't resolve anything."

Obviously, snap election cannot be a quick fix for political crisis generated by legitimacy issues, whether stemming from corruption or abuse of power or from accusations of cheating in elections (as in the case of the Philippine crisis). Caution must be exercised in applying the formula of Thai electoral democracy for crisis resolution.

If the boycott movement succeeded in derailing Thaksin's party machine, which seemed to have made his effort to regain political control unstoppable, that was because the opposition could fall back on the minimum requirement of 20 percent of votes to fill electoral constituencies. But boycott as a weapon to deny electoral mandate to a reviled government has a history of failure in the Philippines. When the Left tried it in the 1985 snap election, it only succeeded in isolating itself and making itself irrelevant.

A waste of money

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SO THE COMELEC NEEDS P1 BILLION JUST TO verify the signatures of the "people's initiative" being undertaken to push for Charter change. That the initiative itself is of dubious value, given that there is still no enabling law spelling out how such an initiative should be conducted, seems to be of little consequence to both the Comelec and Malacañang. Both seem determined to push it through, or let the train barrel through, to borrow the President's analogy.

Where the Comelec and Malacañang will find the P1 billion for the verification process, as well as the estimated P2.6 billion for a plebiscite doesn't seem such an insurmountable problem, either. The powers-that-be seem able to dig up scarce money for projects they totally believe in, even if it means scuttling other, even more urgently-needed projects and basic services. How many classrooms, hospitals, clinics and roads will be sacrificed to pave the way for the Cha-cha train?

While money hunters of the Arroyo administration can be expected to dig up the needed funds for Cha-cha, the question everyone seems to have neglected is: Is the Comelec itself a good steward of the people's money? Remember that it still has to explain how it managed to squander more than P2 billion of public funds in the aborted "modernization" program, for which the entire Comelec board of commissioners stand indicted. Now they seem to be willing to waste even more money in what may ultimately be deemed a meaningless exercise.

* * *

LET me add my voice to the growing clamor against the administration's rash desire to circumvent the constitutional process needed to amend the Constitution.

With all legal avenues blocked, most prominently by a recalcitrant Senate, the administration is now treading on dangerous ground, forcing through a people's initiative that has yet to be tested or even gain legal standing, given the Supreme Court's previous ruling on a similar attempt to short-cut the constitutional amendment process.

Pro-administration local officials have been crowing that they have met and even exceeded the necessary quotas, citing the "will of the people" as the ultimate arbiter of constitutionalism. But if the administration is so sure of the people's backing on this issue, why doesn't it bite the bullet and opt for a constitutional convention, where delegates duly elected by voters, will debate, discuss, study and vote on proposed amendments? If we're going to be spending money, we might as well spend it on a process that enjoys better legal footing.

* * *

MORE on our Boracay trip. Aside from making culinary discoveries, our recent outing also afforded us a chance to re-visit old favorites. My husband and son discovered Pizzeria Da Mario: Little Corner of Italy more than 10 years ago, when they went biking across the island and ended up, sweaty and hungry, at one end of Boracay, near Manoc-manoc Beach.

This was when they discovered a small, nondescript pizzeria and had what my son called "the best pizza I have ever tasted." A few years ago, the hubby and I had a chance to try Mario's pizza once more, and we were not disappointed.

On our last visit, a pilgrimage to Da Mario's was high on the agenda. We had no difficulty finding the place, which had since been enlarged into several huts surrounding a small garden, and eagerly scanned the menu. For our party of four, we ended up ordering two pizzas, the basic Margherita and the Napoletana, spiked with anchovies, which we found to our delight retained the crisp and thin crust and still bore the same zesty tomato sauce. In addition, my husband ordered Spaghetti with Marinara Sauce, while my son had Penne with tomato sauce. I decided to push my luck with Spaghetti alla Carbonara, which I have long stopped ordering from restaurants in Manila because I was invariably disappointed. But Da Mario's came through, with a rich and tasty cream sauce accented with truly tasty slices of bacon.

We ended up sharing our orders family-style, tasting and savoring our virtual smorgasbord of Italian dishes, honest and unpretentious in their presentation and preparation.

* * *

ONE other memorable discovery of ours was TJ's Heaven, which lies on the opposite end of the island, beneath the cliffs that demarcate White Beach from Diniwid Beach. TJ's Heaven is actually the restaurant of the Boracay Terraces Beach Resort, and my husband took me there primarily to gaze upon the architecture, a glass-and-concrete structure with rustic touches, such as trellises of bamboo.

Since we just had lunch, we had no room for a meal but decided to enjoy dessert—a fruit crepe and watermelon shakes—that were perfect for beating the heat, while enjoying the breeze stirring the leaves of the trees above us. We could have stayed there indefinitely, watching the endless parade of travelers across the footpath to the other side of the island, and the water craft crossing the horizon.

That same evening, the hubby and I tried another "first" for us in Boracay: massage on the beach. Beachfront massages have long been offered to loungers, but this was the first time we gave them a try. While the *masahistas*, who charge P300 for a full-body massage (the resort takes P60 as its cut), need more skills refining, at least they didn't end up straining our muscles! And nothing of course beats the gentle evening breeze rising out of the sea and the tide lulling us to naps.

Afterwards, we enjoyed pre-dinner cocktails from our own supplies: a chilled bottle of rose, chicken gizzard pâté and onion crisps. Dinner of grilled seafood followed at one of the beachfront restaurants along the busier section near Station 2, capping the final evening of our brief Boracay break.

Eaten alive

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN YOU READ EARLY SPANISH ACCOUNTS of the Philippines, you get a feeling that it was an idyllic place. Some heroes, like Rizal, even referred to the Philippines as a "lost Eden." But look around you today, and wonder how we lost paradise.

Our rivers were once so clean that fish swam in them and Filipinos bathed in them. And I wouldn't be surprised if early Filipinos drank from the Pasig. But look at the Pasig's murky waters today and you can believe one drop would be enough to kill an elephant. Our rivers can no longer sustain life anymore, and this is why there is little or no danger from crocodiles anymore.

One of the more memorable scenes in "Noli Me Tangere" has Ibarra saving Elias from the jaws of a crocodile. If you go over the index of the 55-volume compilation of documents by Emma Helen Blair and James Alexander Robertson under "Reptiles (subdivision of vertebrates)," the most numerous entries cover crocodiles compared to those under serpents, lizards, toads and turtles. I did not realize, until I read Blair and Robertson, the difference between a crocodile and caiman (alligator).

There is a lengthy account of the Philippines circa 1650 by Fray Domingo Fernandez Navarrete about three incidents when people were eaten by crocodiles. Two are particularly interesting because in one, a friar is eaten for lunch, and in the other, a newly wed maiden was the victim.

The first story is about Fray Luis Gutierrez who was traveling to a village to celebrate his third Mass on the Feast of the Purification of Our Lady. "[H]e went by boat through a creek which was most dangerous because of the crocodiles. In a certain place, it was seen that one appeared disturbed. The Indians of the boat roused themselves and tried to force the craft forward and to make a loud noise with voices and oars. But nothing availed them, for with two cruel blows of its tail against the boat, the crocodile overturned it completely, so that they were all thrown into the water. The Indians, being lighter and unhampered by clothing, were able to reach land easily. The poor religious, weighted down by his habit and little used to swimming, was left to be overtaken by that fierce and bloodthirsty animal. It seized him, and the poor man was buried in its fierce entrails."

In the "Noli," it is the crocodile that ends up dead, leading one of the people on the banca to remark that the beast's misfortune was understandable because it hadn't gone to Mass that morning.

Fray Domingo said there were so many crocodiles in Laguna de Bai that during the dry months, when cattle were brought to pasture near the lake, crocodiles would come out of the water and carry away horses and bulls "with great ease as the cat carries off a rat." It must have been so terrifying to even imagine death in the jaws of a crocodile that special wooden cages were lowered at certain parts of the rivers so that one could bathe in peace. These acted very much like the metal shark cage we see on National Geographic or the Discovery channel. The problem was that there were times when a crocodile got into the cage and persons jumped in without looking.

Fray Domingo's next account was more tragic than the first:

"A short time before my arrival in the islands, a very peculiar thing happened. Some Indians had been married, and, as they were about to eat, the bride was desirous of going down to the river to wash her feet, as they were in the habit of doing every day and every hour. The house stood partly over the river, as is their custom. While she was washing, a crocodile attacked her and carried her off. At her cries and the noise, some of the people ran out and saw the poor girl in the teeth of the crocodile, which was making off with its prey. The bridegroom, who beheld with his own eyes such a spectacle, blind with love and aroused by anger, with dagger in hand (but more rashly than prudently) threw himself into the water, and followed the beast that was carrying off his beloved prize. He overtook it and fought with it. He recovered his wife and returned triumphantly with the spoil in his arms, but she was already dead and lifeless. The bridegroom came back a widower, and sad and mournful, and with tears was that wedding ended. That was a notable and very memorable occurrence."

Fray Domingo ended this part of his account with a lifesaving tip we should all remember when we find ourselves with a crocodile as a worst-case scenario: One must keep cool and attack the crocodile in its most sensitive part—the eyes. Poke the eye and the crocodile will flee.

Frankly, I don't think this is a very reliable tip, coming from a man who claimed crocodiles had four eyes—two above water and two below. Actually, it just looks this way because when the crocodile swims, it has half its eyes on the surface of the water.

Another item we should ask Crocodile Dundee or Kim Atienza concerns population control practiced by crocodiles. According to Fray Domingo, a crocodile goes upstream to lay her eggs and goes downstream to rest. When the eggs hatch, the crocodile opens her mouth and waits for the poor things to be brought down by the current for her to eat.

The account is a mix of fact and fantasy but reminds us of dangers of long ago.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

The last gasp

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

REP. FERJENEL BIRON OF ILOILO HAS INTRODUCED House Bill 3830, aiming to lower drug prices through a Drug Rehabilitation Board. I first found the name of the proposed board strange, since we associate rehabilitation with drug dependents, but then maybe in a way the name is appropriate because really the main reason we're paying such outrageous prices for drugs is our total dependence on multinational drug cartels.

Monopoly power

Cartels? I'm sure the drug companies are going to come out soon to respond to the Biron bill and declare, as they have in the last 50 years or so, that there is no monopoly, that there are so many drug companies out there, multinational and local, and that this allows for healthy competition to keep prices manageable.

But people often forget that the drug market is very segmented, with each drug company specializing in particular lines. This means that for many vital products, you have only two or three companies cornering the market. This is the case for many antibiotics, intravenous fluids (dextrose and other products), cardiovascular drugs, anti-diabetics, even contraceptives.

Back in the 1980s, as I was researching for a book on pharmaceuticals, "Dying for Drugs," I was able to interview a physician who told me about how he had complained to a drug salesman about how expensive their antibiotic was. At that time, there were only two brands of that antibiotic available in the market. The drug salesman's reply? "That's impossible. We agreed to keep the prices of our antibiotics at about the same price."

I don't think the companies actually conspire in a formal sense, but they're really quite similar to the oil cartel, able to keep prices of their "competing" products almost at the same high levels, designed to squeeze as much of the last peso and centavo they can from the consumer.

It's not just market forces at work here, but political economy. These companies are huge, with assets larger than the gross national product of the Philippines. Economics translates into politics. It's well known that the administration of US President George W. Bush is very—some will say too—friendly to the drug companies because these companies were among the largest contributors to the Republican Party's election coffers.

These powerful companies will not spare any expense to curb attempts to temper their profits. They have opposed price control whenever possible. And they will oppose any attempt to introduce real market forces into the pharmaceutical sector. Expect the Birol bill to face attacks since it seeks to expand the efforts of the state-owned Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC) to make parallel imports. This involves importation of cheaper brand-name products from other countries, and selling these through government hospitals.

Beyond rehab

I wish Birol and his colleagues the best of luck as they try to get their bill passed, but I also feel that in the long run, we need to go back to the basics and ask why we are in this rut right now, paying some of the highest drug prices in the region. Roberto Pagdanganan, chief of the PITC, points out that the antihypertension medicine Norvasc is sold here at P44.75 per 5 mg tablet and P74.57 per 10 mg tablet, compared to P5.98 and P8.96, respectively, in Pakistan.

We do not have our own drug industry to speak of, being almost totally import-dependent. We've been told time and time again, by the multinationals, that it's better to just import our drugs because this is more cost-effective, that we don't have a population large enough to support a local drug industry. I've wondered; with a population of 84 million, how can anyone say we don't have a domestic market? Yes, the purchasing power is low but this is also relative: if drug prices continue the way they are, we can expect many Filipinos to continue to be unable to purchase the drugs they need.

We presume that like typhoons and landslides, high drug prices are inevitable. And when consumer activists point out that many of our neighbors provide much cheaper medicines, the multinationals say, "Oh, but those are inferior drugs, even counterfeit drugs." But the price comparisons involve the same products of multinationals in different countries, so when they cry "Fake drugs!" they're actually putting down their own medicines.

We need to look at how other countries were able to bring drug prices down. China, Thailand and India were successful because they were more independent-minded in the past, refusing to sign patent laws that they felt were unfair to developing countries. As a result, their governments and local companies began to produce low-cost generics. Facing competition from these generics, the multinationals had to lower their drug prices as well, which is why their products carrying the same brand names are cheaper in those countries.

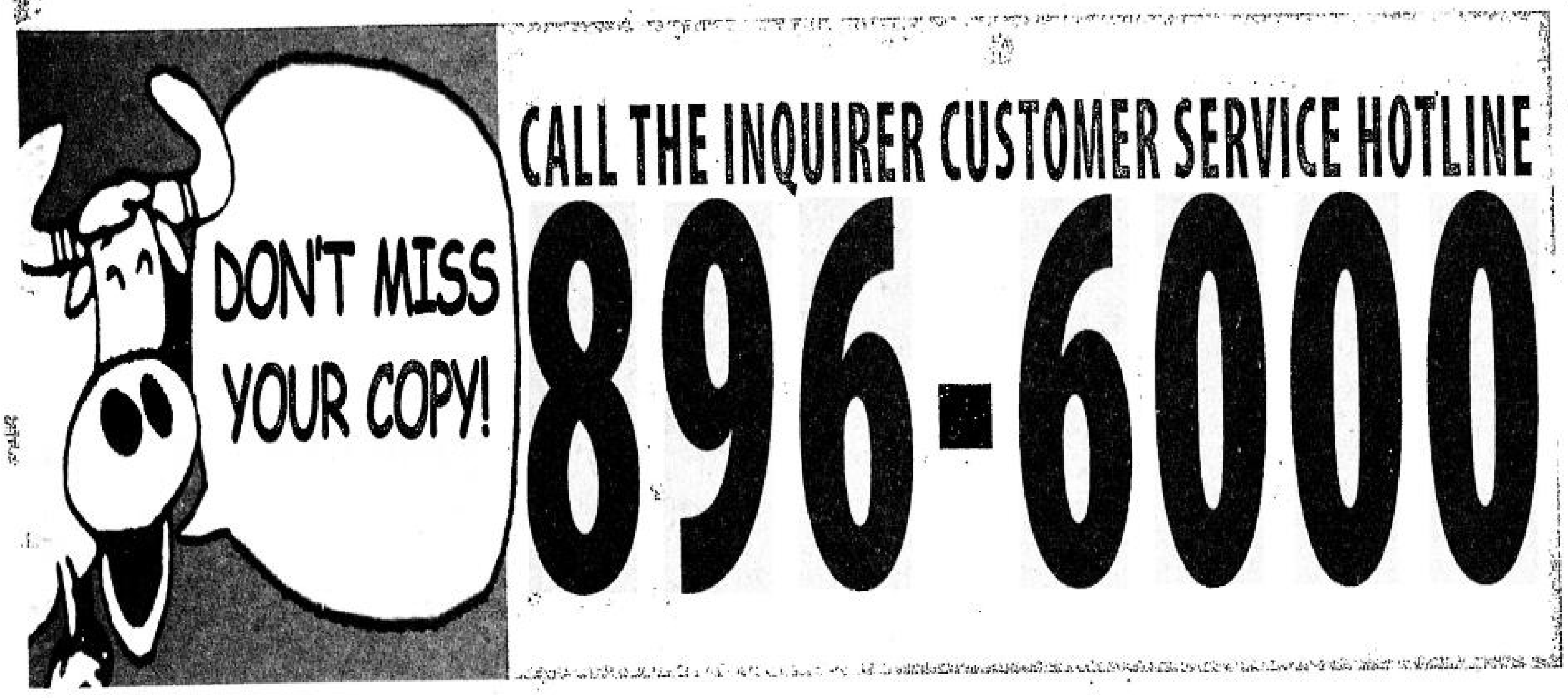
Those three countries have now acceded to patent laws, but were able to achieve a competitive edge and are always ready to invoke public-health emergencies to again produce patented drugs when needed.

If the Philippines wants true "rehab," we need now to look at how we can build a local drug industry. I'm actually very uneasy about parallel imports, because it continues to rely on the products of multinationals in other countries and they could cut off supplies as well. We should now be looking at the national companies in India, China and Thailand, some of which are now recognized as world-class. For example, Cipla in India is a major world supplier of antiretroviral drugs needed for HIV.

But even as we look into imports, the government should be encouraging local companies to produce good quality medicines. Right now, parallel imports are killing, rather than helping, the local generic companies.

We need to provide incentives, like tax exemptions for research and innovation. That should include serious research into local medicinal plants; our neighbors have surged far ahead of us to tap these valuable resources. Even sadder, as we neglect our medicinal plants, foreign companies are coming in and tapping our resources, even taking out patents on them. I was surprised to see, in American natural health magazines, numerous advertisements for banaba extract—yes, that common tree found on our roadsides is an anti-diabetic.

Years back, amid the debates over patents and local drug production, we laughed at Thailand and China and India as being "backward," unable to keep up with the "realities" of globalization. Today, they're having the last laugh as their citizens reap the bounties of strong local drug industries. Ours is the last gasp as we suffer from the lack of affordable medicines.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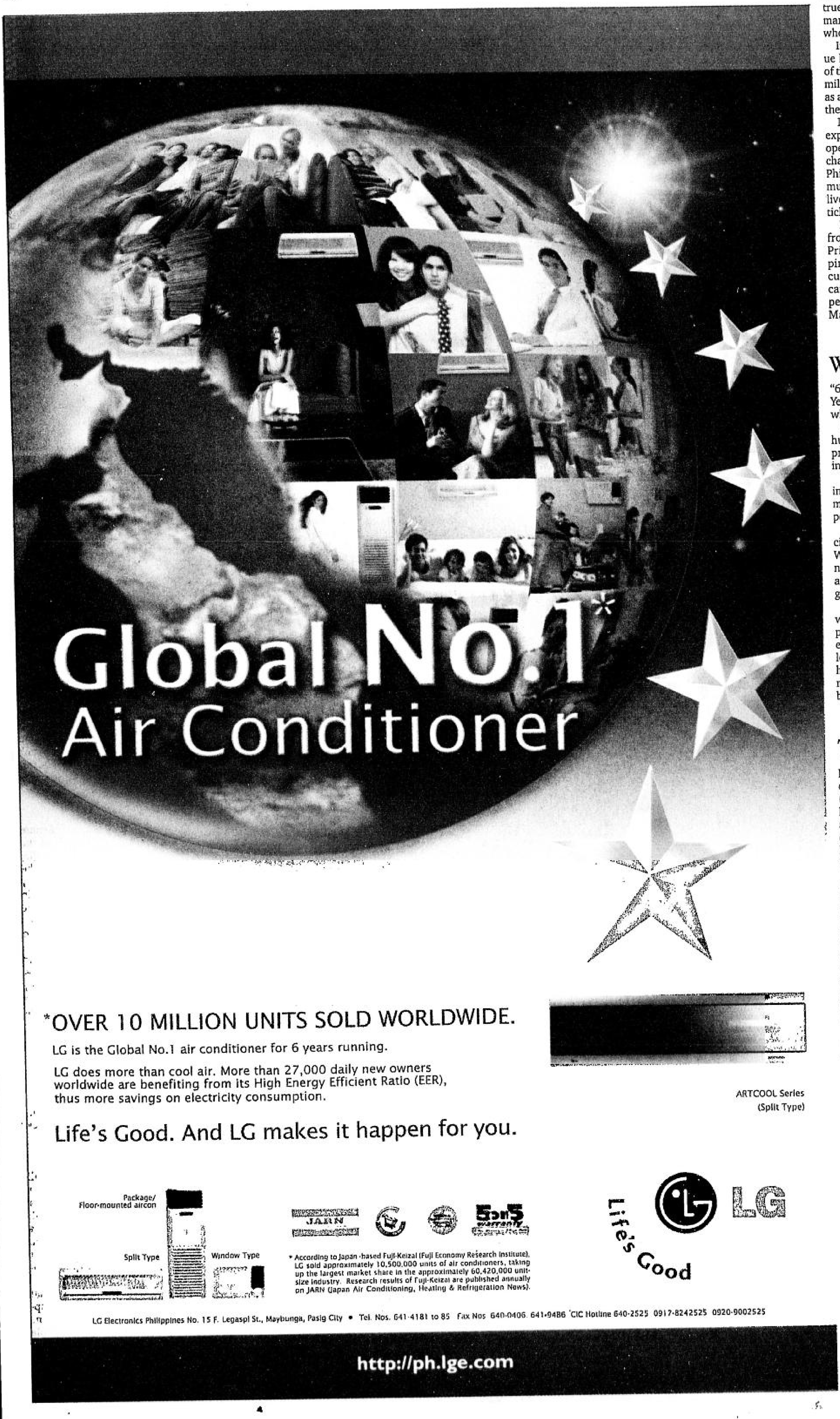

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Tale of two Asean leaders

FORMER PRESIDENT RAMOS SAID THAT President Macapagal-Arroyo and Thailand Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra are both confronted by a crisis triggered by "charges of corruption, cronyism, poor governance and the propensity to use strong-armed methods to stay in power."

What is different is that in Thailand the military and the police have talked out Thaksin from taking a hard line against anti-government militants and to voluntarily step down. Here in the Philippines, the military and the police inspired and strengthened President Arroyo to take a hard line against anti-GMA militants in order for her to stay in power.

In Thailand, the military and the police uphold the sovereignty of the people. Here in the Philippines, the military and the police have not yet realized or refuse to realize that the true chain of command starts not from a commander in chief but from the people, from whom all authority emanates.

In Thailand, the military and the police value honor more than any other in the exercise of their profession. Here in the Philippines, the military and the police value their profession as a livelihood more than the honor of being in the profession of arms.

In Thailand, top military and police leaders express their anti-government sentiments openly without fear of being relieved and charged for inciting to sedition. Here in the Philippines, top military and police leaders are muzzled by the fear of being relieved of their livelihood and charged for violation of the Articles of War.

In Thailand, protesters are not prevented from picketing the Government House of Prime Minister Thaksin. Here in the Philippines, President Arroyo, because of her insecurity and paranoia, has fortified Malacañang and has even cracked down on peaceful protests wherever they are in Metro Manila.

—MAJ. GEN. FORTUNATO U. ABAT (Ret.),
fortunatouabat@yahoo.com

Who wants GMA out?

"65% favor GMA quitting." (PDI, 3/17/06) Yes, 65 percent of Filipinos want her out, but who are these Filipinos?

I believe they are the non-taxpayers, power-hungry politicians, turncoats and deposed presidents and ex-presidents who have nothing better to do.

And the bulk of these non-taxpayers are being paid to go against the President with tax money or "earnings" from corrupt and greedy politicians. What a pity.

It's also very sad that the media, the politicians and the people have not matured at all. With all the bickering and finger-pointing, it's not surprising that people (taxpayers at that!) are leaving the country. And I did. And how glad I was that I finally did.

Why can't everybody just cooperate with whoever is at the helm now? Act as one. Support one another. There have been significant economic improvements, why discredit the leader? Let the President do her job. Filipinos have been complaining too much. There's too much of democracy but very little of responsibility. It's time to work together, now!

—ROLAND RODRIGUEZ,
bogs64@hotmail.com

The real Monkees

MAY I SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON A comment in Rina Jimenez-David's column. (PDI, 3/22/06) Now, if only the original Monkees, especially Davy Jones, could get together and disprove the nasty rumor that they predated Milli Vanilli by staging a live concert here, I might yet be convinced to get on this bandwagon to our pop music past.

The Monkees have reunited about four times in the United States, from 1986, 1989, 2000 and 2001. They most certainly do play their own instruments and sing their own songs. Mike Nesmith is the only one that does not participate in the reunions, although he did make a brief appearance in several concerts in England during the 1986 tour. The last reunion produced a CD that can be purchased on Jones' website, www.davyjones.net, and on Micky Dolenz's website, www.mickydolenz.com

The Monkees are all extremely talented, excellent showmen and musicians, including Jones, who now plays the guitar as well as his ever present tambourine, which is not as easy to play as one might think. Peter Tork plays about seven instruments extremely well, and Dolenz can still play the drums as well as he plays the guitar.

They always sang; that was never faked. Likening these talented men to Milli Vanilli was a very bad mistake.

—JAN CHILTON,
luvdavy@sccoast.net

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Thai Prime Minister Thaksin quits

From page A1

results showed his popularity had plummeted.

Thaksin's party won 57 percent of Sunday's parliamentary election, according to preliminary results, but scores of voters had abstained, including a majority in the capital, Bangkok.

Thaksin's critics—who for two months have been staging rallies drawing as many as 100,000 people—rejected the prime minister's idea of a reconciliation committee as insincere and called for new antigovernment protests this week. *(See related story in The World, Page A23.)*

The main opposition parties boycotted Sunday's poll, leaving Thaksin's ruling Thai Rak Thai—Thai Love Thai—party uncontested in 278 of 400 constituencies for the lower house of Parliament.

The boycott left 38 constituencies undecided, because the sole candidate in each race failed to win the required 20 percent of the vote, according to the unofficial results.

The rest of the seats in Parliament would go to the ruling party except for one, which went to a candidate from an obscure party in the south, unofficial results showed.

Record abstentions

Partial results showed a record high number of abstention ballots in Bangkok, where the anti-Thaksin movement is strongest, and in southern Thailand, which is traditionally a stronghold of the opposition Democrat Party. But the ruling party was expected to sweep the north and northeast where rural voters have benefited from Thaksin's generous social welfare and economic assistance programs.

Thaksin had previously said he would step down if his party won less than 50 percent of the vote.

Thaksin's announcement late Tuesday was particularly surprising, given that he had said on national television just one day before that he saw no reason to resign since results showed that his party had won 16 million votes. Nonetheless, he acknowledged the strong protest vote.

The three parties that had boycotted Sunday's election said that new elections should be organized without Thaksin and had again called on him to quit.

'Resign first'

"It's too late for national reconciliation," Democrat Party head Abhisit Vejjajiva said after a meeting between the parties.

"We would join new elections, but Mr. Thaksin has to resign first."

In the latest returns, Thaksin's party had taken 54 percent of the vote, with more than two-thirds of constituencies counted, election officials said, warning that a complete count might not be released until the end of the week.

Thaksin insisted his party won with 57 percent of the vote despite a strong protest vote, especially in Bangkok and the South, but the more than 16 million votes he claimed fell a long way short of the 19 million people who gave him a landslide election win just one year earlier.

Even if the final count confirms Thaksin's victory, election officials said by-elections will be held on April 23 in 38 constituencies where the only candidate in the race failed to win the required 20 percent of the vote.

Another by-election will be held in a district where all the candidates were disqualified over irregularities in the nomination process.

Parliament cannot convene to confirm a new prime minister until all 500 seats are filled, promising weeks of further uncertainty.

The People's Alliance for Democracy, which led two months of anti-Thaksin protests, rejected his claim of victory and a compromise offer under which he would step down if an independent panel told him to do so.

Thaksin called the election three years early after two months of street protests against his rule. However, the opposition boycott undermined the credibility of the polls and ensured a huge protest vote against the premier.

The protracted crisis has cast a cloud over one of the region's most dynamic economies. The government has already adjusted economic growth forecasts and the stock market has taken a hit.

Protests demanding Thaksin's resignation began in February after his family sold $1.9 billion worth of shares, without paying taxes, in the telecom firm he founded before entering politics.

Tens of thousands protested the sale, alleging corruption and abuse of power, in near-daily demonstrations. *AP, AFP*

REUTERS

"I WILL not accept the premier post," Thaksin tells a press conference but he will stay on until Parliament elects his successor.

Now, Abalos does talking for Borra

From page A1

partment said Borra and Abalos would issue a statement but reporters were later told just to listen to Abalos's interview on television later in the night.

ANC television broadcast sound bites of Borra's explanation at the Comelec en banc meeting: "I did say that there was cheating, but it was not done by one party or one candidate alone. It's endemic ... I do not want to be a hypocrite. In every election, there has always been cheating."

The sound bites reflected Borra's testimony before the Senate.

During the Senate inquiry, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the committee on defense and national security, asked Borra if he believed massive cheating had taken place in 2004.

Borra replied: "From the actual and empirical pieces of evidence [presented at the Senate probe], there was cheating. There was cheating in some areas. There was massive cheating in some areas but hopefully very minimal."

He made the statement after hearing the testimony of election experts Hermenegildo Estrella and Roberto Verzola. The two gave audiovisual presentations purporting to show that vote-shaving and vote-padding had been done in at least six provinces in Mindanao to favor Ms Arroyo in 2004.

Biazon's committee is looking into the security aspects of the alleged wiretapping of phone conversations during the 2004 balloting purportedly between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

The opposition said that the recordings were evidence that Ms Arroyo had manipulated the vote. Last September her allies killed impeachment proceedings against her over claims of poll fraud.

Main rival is dead

Romulo Macalintal, Ms Arroyo's election lawyer, said on Monday that because his client's main rival, movie star Fernando Poe Jr., was already dead, there's "no real party in interest" and the case was closed.

Macalintal said that if there was evidence to show irregularities, the Comelec should know what to do. In the meantime, he said he had advised Ms Arroyo not to comment on the cheating allegations.

However, in the House of Representatives, Ms Arroyo's allies expectedly came to her defense yesterday.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said that it was clear the Senate inquiry was meant to besmirch the reputation of the Chief Executive with the presentation of a new opposition witness with a "skewed" analysis of the polls.

"The Senate wiretap probe has become irrelevant since the elections are long over and the poll protest against the President had been dismissed by the Presidential Electoral Tribunal," Nograles said in a statement.

Senate not electoral tribunal

"The Senate is not the Presidential Electoral Tribunal. What they can't do in court, they present in the Senate. They should stop crucifying the President in the Senate. That's not part of the script for Lent," Nograles added.

Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon said the Senate wiretap probe had lost its steam and the senators were only trying to resuscitate it.

"Whatever they do, the Senate cannot arouse public interest anymore. The people are tired of the poll fraud issue since the opposition failed to present credible evidence until now," Macarambon said.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero called for the resignation of the Comelec commissioners involved in the 2004 elections.

"There's no longer any reason for the commissioners ... to stay in their posts for their sheer and utter failure to comply with the job description that they swore to uphold," Escudero said.

Impeach commissioners

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales raised the possibility of instituting impeachment proceedings against the Comelec commissioners.

"Questions of whether we should impeach Abalos or not is something that is already being discussed because he himself was the one who denied that there was any fraud that was committed in the 2004 elections," Rosales said.

"We cannot go on with any kind of free, credible elections under his chairmanship given his performance in the recent past," she added.

Biazon said he would give much weight to Borra's admission of poll fraud when his committee prepares its report.

"My conclusion will definitely include the conclusion of Borra. You may not believe me, but better believe him," Biazon said in a phone interview.

"His conclusion was based on the quality of evidence presented in the hearing," he said, referring to the two analysts' studies. "They were the strongest evidence so far presented. They're documentary evidence that can be verified."

The crime: cheating

Biazon said the committee would tie up the testimonies of Borra, Estrella and Verzola with the statements of past witnesses when it drafts its report.

"There was cheating in the elections. And I'm not looking at who won or lost. That is irrelevant. Winning or losing in an election is not a crime. The crime is cheating in an election," he said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. praised Borra for admitting the existence of anomalies in the 2004 vote.

"Allies of GMA can kill the impeachment, but they can't kill the truth. It keeps coming back to haunt them. No amount of ignoring the truth can bury for good the clamor of people that she rectify what she had done by means of snap elections," he said in an interview.

Loren says she's vindicated

Former Sen. Loren Legarda said Borra's testimony vindicated her and validated her charge that Ms Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro were illegitimate occupants of their posts.

"That's what I've been saying all along as early as two years ago. That's the reality in the 200 elections," Legarda told the QUIRER.

But Abalos recalled the "He Garci" conversation took place May 29, 2004, five days after the Comelec chair leaked to reporters the news that Ms Arroyo had won by a margin of a million votes.

"We could no longer make any vote-padding or shaving by that time," he stressed.

Abalos also expressed consternation why the Comelec was being unjustly discredited.

"You know what's difficult here is that if it's us who are speaking, they don't believe us, but if others are talking, they believe them more," he said.

'Destabilization plot'

The chair also said he was "wondering really why they go on insisting that there was vote-padding and shaving." Asked what he thought could be the reason, he replied, "I think this is part of another destabilization plot."

Abalos challenged those claiming to have uncovered any cheating to go to the Comelec and file the appropriate case. "Bring it to us so we can see the evidence," he said. ***With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and Cynthia D. Balana***

Senate media report tells GMA, you're not the State

From page A1

Richard Gordon, Mar Roxas, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Panfilo Lacson, Sergio Osmeña III, Alfredo Lim and Jamby Madrigal.

Senators Manuel Villar, Juan Ponce Enrile and Ramon Revilla Jr. said they would sign it later.

The report appeared to mark an escalation of the long-running public war between Malacañang and the opposition-controlled Senate, whose leaders have openly called for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

Remedial legislation

The report bewailed the "highhanded and brazen" raid on The Daily Tribune; the supposedly underhanded police attempt to secure a search warrant against the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), and the move by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to "impose censorship through the subterfuge of imposing guidelines" on broadcast media.

The report also said there was "a need for remedial legislation" and for a review of a provision in all the franchises of TV and radio stations that gave the President the power to take over their facilities during times of national emergency.

This provision was void because it was "clearly of doubtful constitutional validity," it said.

The report, adopted by the chamber, was a product of hearings held by a subcommittee of the Senate committees on justice and human rights, and public services.

Only favorable news

"In the coup attempts in 1986, 1987 and 1989, among the first moves of the government was to protect and guard media from falling into the hands of the rebels, particularly television stations, so that it could relay impact news to the public of what was happening," the report said.

"On the other hand, this government has done the opposite. Among its first moves was to control and muzzle media and close it, if possible. Only news approved by the government can be given out. (That) was the plan," it added.

The report slammed the absence of Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao and NTC Commissioner Rolando Solis during the subcommittee hearings because of Ms Arroyo's Executive Order No. 464, and their enforcement of the crackdown on media.

Arrogance

"They could and should have explained the rationale for their actuations," the report said. "But in a demonstration of presidential arrogance, they were forbidden from doing so, as if to explicitly demonstrate that the President does not owe the Senate and the people an explanation for her actions."

It added: "Yet these two officials attended press conferences where they unabashedly proclaimed their actuations. They were allowed by the President to use unofficial forums to air the President's position but disallowed them from performing their official forum like the Senate subcommittee hearing."

EO 464 bars government officials from appearing in congressional inquiries, without Ms Arroyo's specific clearance.

In a press conference, Senator Arroyo said that the government would have succeeded in having a "controlled press" if the media and the public did not assert their rights.

"Had media not stood [their] ground and also the public, then we would have a muzzled press, we would have a controlled and managed press," he said.

Arroyo said the President's declaration of a state of national emergency through Proclamation No. 1017 was "only a pretext" for the media crackdown.

Real reason

"The primary objective of 1017 was to control media ... because if the government controls media, then only news that is favorable to the government will be known to the public, especially in the light of this Chacha," he said, referring to current moves to amend the Constitution and set up a parliamentary government.

Arroyo urged the Supreme Court to immediately rule on the legal challenges against EO 464, warning that the administration could again try to muzzle the media, especially if EO 464 was not struck down.

"Nothing can prevent them from doing it again but I suppose that we are going to continue protesting it. But you see, for so long as EO 464 is in force, the executive has somehow defanged the Senate," Arroyo said.

The report noted that the police raid on the Tribune was carried out in the dead of night when even regular searches were carried out during daytime.

"The police bugged the land line phones as if they haven't heard that there is a law that forbids bugging phones without a court order," the report said.

'Special right'

Arroyo said that the Senate should "revisit" Section 5 of the franchises of broadcast media which gives the President the "special right" to temporarily take over broadcast entities in times of war, rebellion, public peril, calamity, emergency, disaster or disturbance of peace and order.

Arroyo said Congress should not simply delete this section because a real national emergency might arise that would require government to take over broadcast facilities.

Nature's 1st art gallery is God's own greenery

From page A1

space ended on March 30 with the opening of what is conceivably the first environmental art gallery and alternative art space in the Philippines.

Velasco and her husband Dominic, a photographer, decided to convert part of their office building into a place exclusively for art that uses natural or recycled materials or delivers a strong conservation message.

Learning about nature

Stairway Gallery, housed in the Imacron building at 115 Kamuning Road, Quezon City, formally opened on Thursday night its first exhibit of *au naturel* art works that convey the need for environmental preservation.

The opening brought together noted artists who care about the environment—Luis Stuart, Paz Abad Santos, Ben Cabrera and Bobby Castillo—and environmentalists who appreciate their conscientious art.

"I was looking for a marriage between advocacy, environment and art ... I want this to be the place to go to [if one wants to] learn about nature," Velasco said.

Indeed, the gallery is a veritable schoolroom on nature.

"Chimes" made from dried, preserved leaves of Marang trees adorn the entrance. Dividers, made by Stuart from inlaid abaca parchment and standing nearly five feet, serve as partitions in the second floor room.

Castillo's unusually low dinner and coffee tables, made of sculpted glass and appearing like tree trunks down to the rings, are carefully laid on the floor, some of them featuring a saw as a centerpiece.

The low table sculptures, which make it nearly impossible to eat comfortably, challenge those who like to engage in "armchair discourses" about the environment to act on their sentiments, Velasco said.

Fragile beauty

"The notion of people bending in discomfort to enjoy a meal provides an awareness of the consequences of our action or inaction toward nature and the environment. It challenges us to act beyond our comfort zone," said the exhibit notes on Castillo's works.

Art lovers, students and other interested parties have until the end of the month to view the exhibit with a message.

In contrast to the tough challenge posed by Castillo's glass sculptures, Velasco's delicate pressed-flower art depicts the fragile beauty of nature that can easily be lost through abuse or neglect.

Lining three walls of the gallery is the illustration of Velasco's award-winning book, "Are You the Forest King?"

This paper/pressed-flower art was used by the Museo Pambata as a traveling exhibit to raise environmental awareness among Filipino schoolchildren. As many as half a million children in 10 provinces have viewed it.

The works of Stuart, recognized as the premier paper artist in the country, will stop and amaze guests ascending to the next floor.

Hanging from the wall near the staircase are his famous heliographs, which use solar heat to capture the images of leaves and branches on cogon grass papers, known among environmental artists as the "greenest paper."

The leaves were gathered in Tiaong, Quezon, where Stuart lives and teaches farmers to make "actual-size photographs of the sun, of a plant, on grass."

Along with the heliographs are Abad Santos's trademark tapestries made from indigenous materials like shells, cotton seeds and stems on a burlap sack serving as canvas.

Roof deck

The building's roof deck, still an extension of the gallery, is for those who wish to enjoy ephemeral art such as rock balancing, or to simply relax on a wooden bench, protected from distractions by dividers made from sawdust, eggshells and other recycled materials.

Velasco remains hopeful that things will look up for the Philippine environment someday soon.

"If there's any way a simple person like me can raise awareness on environmental conservation, why not? We're very strong on positive change," she said.

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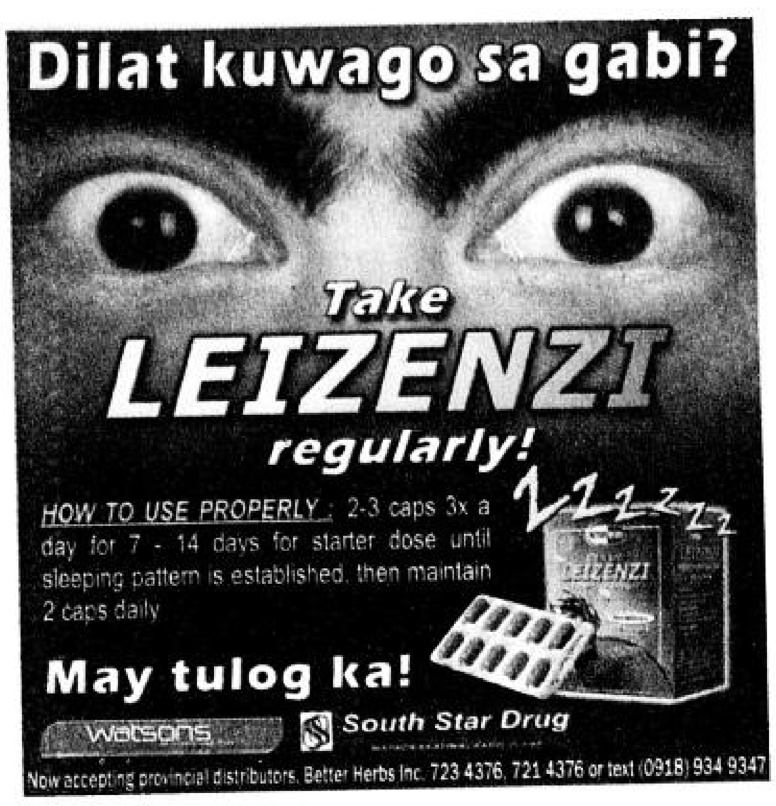

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Cruz proposes to extend generals' tour of duty

From page A1

moted to two-star rank (major general or rear admiral); another three years if promoted to three-star rank (lieutenant general or vice admiral), and another three years if promoted to the highest four-star rank (general).

"This will provide stability in the key positions in the Armed Forces," Cruz said.

His proposal, however, means that some generals could serve well beyond the 56-year-old retirement age set by the Constitution.

Aside from extending the tenure of generals, Cruz proposed the promotion of senior officials based on performance.

"As you go higher in the senior ranks of officers, performance should be given more weight rather than seniority... That's one of the things that we are putting in the new national defense act," Cruz said on the sidelines of an evacuation drill in Makati yesterday.

He said the defense department also wanted to lift the mandatory retirement age for generals, a proposal apparently patterned after the United States military.

Cruz's proposed overhaul of the promotion system is expected to raise a lot of hackles in the military, especially among senior officers who have come to expect promotion as something that comes with seniority.

Even Cruz, the third civilian to become defense chief since 1972, acknowledged that the "seniority rule is very strong in the Armed Forces."

Because of the well-entrenched tradition of seniority, mid-level officers with the ranks of major or lieutenant commander and lieutenant colonel or commander cannot hope to be promoted unless their upper-class officers are promoted first, according to military insiders.

When former President Corazon Aquino broke the seniority tradition by naming Lisandro Abadia AFP chief of staff to succeed now Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Alexander Aguirre who was the deputy chief of staff then and Abadia's senior, resigned in protest.

"In promotions to the ranks of lieutenant colonel, colonel and general, we are going to put more emphasis on merit than seniority," Cruz said.

Retirement at 60

Military officers retire after 30 years in the service or upon reaching the age of 56, whichever comes later, as provided for in Presidential Decree No. 1638 as amended.

The 1987 Constitution prohibits any extension except for the chief of staff whose term may be extended by the President to complete a term of three years.

"We're also going to put a cap on the age. We're still studying it, maybe about 60 years old," he said.

Republic Act No. 8186 prescribes a maximum tenure for senior officials of a given rank before they are retired for failing to get promoted to the next rank.

On Monday, a spokesperson said the AFP would support amendments to the Constitution to limit politicking in the military.

Gen. Generoso Senga, AFP chief of staff, has presented two proposed amendments to the Constitution: Clipping the power of the bicameral Commission on Appointments over the appointments of senior officials as provided for under Article VII Section 16, and setting a fixed three-year term for the AFP chief of staff.

Despite its insistence on being apolitical, the military leadership has allowed its soldiers to sign the Malacañang-backed people's initiative to amend the Constitution.

Senate OKs 3-year term for AFP chief

The Senate has approved a bill fixing the term of the chief of staff at three years to help insulate the military brass from politics, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said yesterday.

Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, said it was now up to the House of Representatives to pass a similar measure.

Senate Bill No. 1862, which did not discount that a future AFP chief of staff could be a woman, fixed the chief of staff's term of office at three years but also allowed the President to remove "him or her" from office for "loss of confidence."

"If the law is enacted, it will stop the practice of the revolving-door policy and insulate the position of the AFP chief of staff from political influence," Biazon said in a statement.

He said the Senate approved on third reading SB 1862 titled "An Act Prescribing A Fixed Term of Office for the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines," on March 7, 2005.

Biazon said the bill was sent to the House for concurrence "more than a year ago" on March 9, 2005.

If President Macapagal-Arroyo is serious about her proposal to fix the term of the AFP chief of staff, she must urge her supporters in the House of Representatives to prioritize the counterpart bill, Biazon said.

Ms Arroyo on Monday backed proposals for fixed terms of office for the AFP and police chiefs.

Revolving door policy

Senate President Franklin Drilon said Ms Arroyo apparently learned the folly of her "revolving-door policy" when it came to appointing the AFP chief of staff.

Drilon said the quick turnover of chiefs of staff "did not promote stability in the military."

"There is no continuity of policy in the Armed Forces when the chief of staff is replaced from time to time. That's why we are faced with all these coup attempts," he said in a statement.

Since Ms Arroyo became President in January 2001, the country has had eight AFP chiefs of staff—Angelo Reyes, Diomedio Villanueva, Roy Cimatu, Benjamin Defensor, Dionisio Santiago, Narciso Abaya, Efren Abu and Senga—with terms ranging from two months to just over one year, "not to mention naming over 50 retired military officers to civilian posts."

Biazon said he supported Ms Arroyo's call to enact a law fixing the term of office of the AFP chief of staff so that it can help depoliticize the military.

Under SB 1862—authored by Senators Biazon, Loi Ejercito Estrada and Richard Gordon—the AFP chief of staff will have a fixed term of three years, which would start on the date of "his or her first appointment by the President, regardless of the date of confirmation by the Commission on Appointments."

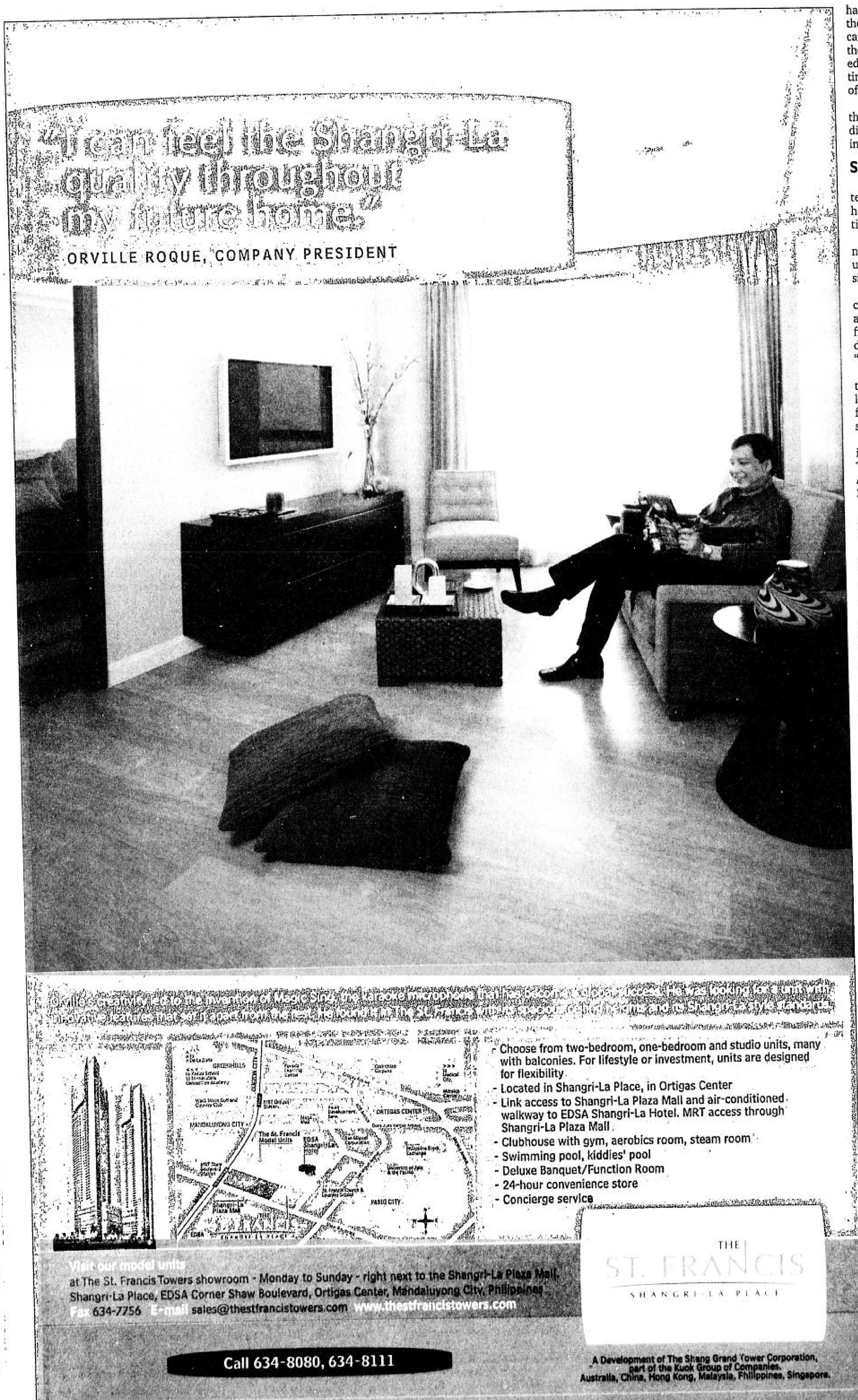
Deferred retirement

"When the officer appointed to the position of chief of staff reaches the compulsory retirement age before the end of his or her three-year term, the statutory compulsory retirement of the chief of staff shall be deferred until the completion of his or her prescribed three-year term," the bill said.

"Provided, however, that the chief of staff may be removed by the President as Commander in Chief for loss of confidence as determined solely by the President even before the end of his or her term of three years."

The bill would disallow the extension of an AFP chief of staff's term "except in cases of war or national emergencies as declared by Congress."

It said no officer should be appointed chief of staff if that official "has less than one year of service remaining in the active service."



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Solon sued for murder of poll exec

Legislator's son, vice mayor also face charges

By Luige A. del Puerto

POLICE YESTERDAY FILED MURDER CHARGES against members of a powerful political clan in Northern Luzon that was linked to the killing of an election officer in La Union in January.

Police thus declared the case solved.

Police tagged La Union Rep. Tomas Dumpit Sr., his son, resigned Army Lt. Col. Tomas Dumpit Jr., and Vice Mayor Clyde Crispino of Caba, La Union in the killing of Commission on Elections officer 3 Filemon Asperin Jr.

On Jan. 12, Asperin was about to board a van outside the Comelec office in Central East, Bauang town in La Union when one of two men on a motorcycle shot him in the head.

The Dumpits purportedly offered the gunmen P300,000 for the hit, police said, quoting confessions from detained suspects.

Also charged with murder were Ares Alvarez Mato, the confessed gunman; Dominador Ali Rentuma, the confessed driver of the getaway vehicle; Tess Dumpit Michelena, a member of the Dumpit clan who was disqualified to run for mayor in the 2004 elections; SPO1 Eduardo Banay, who was assigned as security escort to Representative Dumpit; Renato Batoon, owner of the house where the alleged gunmen stayed for a few days; and Armen Mato, brother of the alleged triggerman.

Armen Mato, an errand boy of the Dumpits, linked his brother to his employers, according to police.

Based on the alleged triggermans confession, investigators said Dumpit Jr. offered money to him to finish off the victim, allegedly with the blessing of Representative Dumpit.

Asperin, they said, had been a thorn on the side of the Dumpit clan for too long.

"The congressman lost heavily in Agoo town when he was the Comelec officer there. [The motive was] revenge," said Chief Supt. Alfredo de Vera, regional police director.

Moreover, Asperin's wife Libertine said his father-in-law, a lawyer for a rival candidate, had successfully campaigned to disqualify Michelena from running as mayor of Agoo.

The grim-faced widow arrived at Camp Crame with her 14-year-old son and brother-in-law. The Asperins had five children.

Libertine said another member of the Dumpit clan, Leah Dumpit, ran and lost as councilor of Bauang town.

According to the widow, before her husband was killed, she had read a text message in his mobile phone offering a brand new car and P500,000 in exchange for getting Leah Dumpit among the Top 8 candidates.

In charging the Dumpits and the other suspects with murder, police relied mainly on the testimonies of the confessed gunman and the driver of the getaway car. Mato and Rentuma are both from Polomolok, South Cotabato.

With a bit of luck, intelligence officers had learned that someone in Cotabato had mentioned about an assassination in Northern Luzon.

They tracked the source of the information: Rentuma, according to Senior Supt. Franklin Bucayu, chief of the La Union Police, was allegedly "shortchanged of his share in the contract" to kill Asperin.

"We found that he appeared to be very credible. He went with us, and gave us some information and how the killing was done. It became apparent that (his words were) consistent with the investigation," Bucayu said, adding that Rentuma pointed to Mato as the triggerman.

Mato was, in fact, on parole, police said.

On March 16, police arrested him in Polomolok after a brief scuffle. He yielded a handgun, a grenade and a sachet of shabu.

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

'LIPAT BAHAY'
A boat carries pieces of furniture and other belongings across the Davao Gulf from Davao City to the Island Garden City of Samal.

Soldiers find NPA training camp in Sierra Madre

LUCENA CITY—GOVERNMENT forces discovered a New People's Army training camp, complete with 15 bunkers in the perimeter, in the hinterlands of the Sierra Madre Sunday, according to the top official of the military's Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) based in Camp Nakar.

Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., Solcom chief, said each bunker could accommodate three to four persons.

He said the rebel camp deep in the mountain village of Cagsiay 3 in Mauban, Quezon, was discovered by Army soldiers of the 16th Infantry Battalion.

The soldiers were pursuing communist guerrillas who were fleeing from an encounter with the military.

Cabuay said the NPA camp was in a thickly forested area and could not be seen through aerial surveillance. It was the second rebel hideout discovered by government forces in the Sierra Madre in less than a week.

"The camp has a mess hall, study area with a communist flag still in display, and several makeshift obstacle courses," he said

"Based on the report that I received, the camp was hastily abandoned. The terrorist group that was based in the camp were on the run," Cabuay said.

The Solcom chief said Army soldiers also retrieved documents that included a "summer offensive blueprint" of the communist rebels.

Last year, Cabuay predicted the defeat of the NPA in Southern Luzon in the next three years.

Earlier, the military reported that soldiers killed three guerrillas in a clash in Lupi, Camarines Sur.

Army Maj. Jose Broso, Solcom spokesperson, said the government troops discovered an NPA camp in Barangay Patalunan with some 40 rebels.

The rebels were believed to be celebrating the NPA's founding anniversary when the soldiers arrived, Broso said.

The military reported no casualty.

The Communist Party of the Philippines has ordered NPA guerrillas to step up attacks on government targets in a bid to bring down the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Military officials have admitted that the NPA still remained the country's top internal security threat.

According to the military, NPA strength went down from 8,000 guerrillas with 6,100 firearms in 2004 to 7,400 fighters with 5,900 firearms in 2005.

The Maoist rebels suspended Norwegian-brokered talks with the Philippine government two years ago, largely to protest Malacañang's refusal to ask the United States and the European Union to remove them from the blacklist of terrorist groups. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Wednesday April 5, 2006

Who will be next? Find out here on your Philippine Idol Network
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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			WNCAA (Rerun)		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	American Idol		Billboard On-Air	Insider
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Outstanding Twins	TV Patrol World		Gulong Ng Palad	Sa Piling Mo	Princess Lulu	Pinoy Big Brother		S.O.C.O.			
AXN		CSI: NY (Season I)		Next Action Star		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		Cold Squad		Amazon		30 Seconds To Fame	Samsung Sports World	The Amazing Race (Season IX)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI: Miami (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	Police Academy	Richie Rich	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Camp Lazlo	Coconut Fred's Fruit Salad Island	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Yu-Gi-Oh Double Duel		Powerpuff Girls		Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinema One		Mahal Mo, Mahal Ko				Ngayon At Kailan Man				Bakit Papa?			Persona					Bukas Bibitayin Si Itay	
Cinemax		The Appaloosa			Real Genius (4:40 PM)				Dark Skies: The Awakening			Death Becomes Her		Insiang (9:15 PM)	Two For Texas (9:40 PM)			Cabin Fever (11:15PM)	
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Crime/Suspense		The Closer		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	I, Detective	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit						Bones	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven That's So Trendy Watch	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon	Buzz on Maggie	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pro Billiards '05 Men's Trick Shot Magic		Pool Snooker Masters Cup 2003		Asian X Games '05 Presented by Kia		Motorsport Asia	Table Tennis '04 [illegible] C'ships	2005 Kaohsiung World Pool C'ship		Sportscenter Asia		Sportscenter Asia	Major League Baseball Fri. Indians @ Yankees				
ETC		Average Joe		Change of Heart	Eliminidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Veronica Mars		Beauty & The Geek		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Marriage Works In Christ	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Faith In Motion	Adventures In Odyssey	EWTN Original Productions	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Defending Life	EWTN Gallery	In The Heart Of The Church	Mother Angelica Live Classics		One In Their Hearts	Catholic Social Teaching	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Carpenter's Shop	Our Father's Plan	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	First Love Of A Royale Prince		Dragonball Z	Great Teacher Onizuka	La Robe de Mariage	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Majika	Encantadia	My Name Is Kim Sam Soon	Jewel In The Palace		Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Family Law III					Ladies Man	Bewitched	The Nanny	Strong Medicine		Judging Amy					Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye II		Strong Medicine
HBO				Elf			Sirens (5:45 PM)				To Gillian On Her 37th Birthday			Gothika			Police Academy: Mission To Moscow		
Hero TV	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Beyblade	Crush Gear Turbo	Angelic Layer	Tokyo Underground	Metal Fighter Miku	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Tokyo Underground	Metal Fighter Miku
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Home Shopping Network		ME TV		PTA Best Of The Philippines		Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Heat		Velocity		X-Men	Street Smarts	Mad TV		That 70s Show	My Name Is Earl	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Primetime Glick	Chappelle Show
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special		Style Star	Martha		Fine Living Special		Intimate Portrait	
MTV Philippines	Jams		MTV Hits		The 70's House	Pop Inc		2006 MAA Nominee Specials				Homecoming	Get Spotted	TRL			Laguna Beach	Get Hitch'd	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXLOG	Top 5	Star MYX	OPM MYX Wow!	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic	Africa From The Ground Up	Hunter Hunted		Interpol Investigates		Science Times						About Asia		Tandem Week/ Nat Geographic Specials 'Animal Omens'		Hunter Hunted: Kodiak Killer Stalked By Sharks		Interpol Investigates	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alas.	Dinig Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Ray Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Banay OCW With Susan K.			
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	[illegible] Professor
PBO			Basta [illegible] Nanginginig Pa				Sa Kamay Ng Ulupong		Love At Aegean Sea	Irene	Fight Night 4 Mars	Laugh To Laugh: Ang Kulit	Now Na!		Bayanihan	Balikbayan		Irene	Over The Green Fields
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Zenith	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)	Global Window	Moma	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Three Wishes		Extreme Make-Over	News On Q	Newswatch Now	Just For Laughs	Money Talk	Kerygma
RPN 9	TV Shopping							Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng [illegible]					
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping						SBN Music Video						SBN Music Video			
Solar Sports		WTA Indian Wells '06 Finals							NBA Jam	Sagupaan	NBA Action	Elorde Awards Night				Biography: A. Iverson	Solar Sports Desk	Swatch FIVB Tour [illegible]	
Sports Plus				Arena Football League						NBA Game Philadelphia @ Cleveland					NBA Game Pacers @ Bulls				
Star Movies		12 Days Of Christmas Eve			Hoodlum (4:40 PM)					Bicentennial Man (6:50 PM)				Jeepers Creepers			Curse Of The Komodo		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Angel		American Idol		Star News Asia	Seinfeld	American Idol		Medical Investigation/ Kenya Wild Live & Orchestra For All Abbey Road		Smallville		Seinfeld	American Idol
Studio 23	Bewitched	Masked Rider Ryuki		Duel Masters		Batman Beyond	Xiaolin Showdown	Spirits	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	The Amazing Race Family Edition		CSI (8:20 PM)	Life As We Know It (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		The Men's Room

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Changing Kalinga's 'warrior culture'

By Desiree Caluza
Lubuagan, Kalinga

THE CORDILLERA PROVINCE of Kalinga has been known for head-hunting expeditions and fierce wars among different tribes since its early history. Officials and elders want to erase that perception of violence through activities that can foster peace and cooperation among the indigenous communities.

Last month, people in the hinterland town of Lubuagan (pop: 9,875 in 2000) staged the "Amung Chi Bochong" festival to make peace last in the place once torn by tribal violence. They gathered at the Emilio Aguinaldo Park for rituals, songs and dances.

According to one of the elders, former Councilor Emmanuel Bacacao, the *bochong* (or *bodong*) is an agreement between two tribes to prevent or end a conflict.

"In its wider sense, [*bochong*] is the institution around which the Kalinga way of life revolves," Bacacao said.

The festival was highlighted by the reenactment of a series of rituals that the elders perform to end the wars.

Peace pact ritual

One of the significant numbers is the *luwed*, where symbols used in a cleansing rite are collected to signal the start of peace dialogues.

The tribes use a *tallagen chi bochong*, a platform where the symbols are placed, and a *tupog*, which consists of a bowl, a red cloth the size of a handkerchief, and an egg. The *tupog* is placed at the center of the tallagen.

The egg symbolizes the fragility of life and honor that must be preserved by the *bochong*, while the red cloth means parental care, Bacacao said. The peace pact holder keeps the cloth after the celebration.

The bowl represents the palms of the *bochong* holders who protect the lives, property and honor of the tribes forging peace.

"When a serious breach of the peace agreement is committed, [the peace pact holder cuts] a piece of the red cloth and sends this to the [violator] to inform him of the violation," he said.

Symbols

The *luwed* also features the *chiseg*, a plate of rice placed on the *tallagen*. The *chiseg* symbolizes food offered as a symbol of hospitality to the *kabochong* (party to a peace pact).

Also placed on the *tallagen* are the *sayong* (*saleng* or pinewood strips used for kindling fire), which symbolizes light, warmth and comfort to the *kabochong*; and the *gipas* (knife decorated with beads), which means service.

A *kebkeb* (native clay jar) containing the *bilaklong* (*beyas* or sugarcane wine), is also displayed.

YOUNG women of Lubuagan town in Kalinga support their tribe's efforts in promoting peace through songs, dances and rituals during the "Amung Chi Bochong" festival. EV ESPIRITU

Lubuagan residents hold peace festival to end tribal violence

Members of a party forging peace dip their fingers into the *bilaklong* and touch their navels. Residents believe that this practice protects people against a *butut* (a serious illness) and, at the same time, cleanses their hands so they will not cause illness to the *kabochong*.

Sticks and *runo* (a variety of bamboo) shoots are placed on the ground to ward off evil spirits during the peace dialogue.

Spears decorated with a *tapis* (native woven skirt), g-strings and belts are also displayed to symbolize security, justice and peace that the pact guarantees.

Traditional justice

Bacacao said the festival was staged to remind tribe members of the significance of peace and justice in their community, especially at this time when the practice of *bodong* is being overshadowed by modern laws.

He said the elders were glad that despite the influence of modern laws, some members still seek out the *bodong* holders because they consider the traditional justice system faster in resolving conflicts than the courts.

But the Church, he said, once criticized the Lubuagan tribe for its adherence to customs and traditions related to the *bochong*.

Cirilo Bawer, a school teacher, said the tribe had to struggle to revive these rituals amid criticisms from the Church. "Those trying to revive these rituals in the 1960s were called pagans and uncivilized," he said.

Through time, however, local missionaries began supporting efforts to revive the rituals of the Kalinga.

"We have become proponents of reviving our own culture. Through this festival, we begin to appreciate it more," Bawer said.

Lubuagan Mayor Johnny Dickpus said his tribe had forged *bochong* with most tribes in the province, and through these agreements, they had settled conflicts and improved their social and economic lives.

Spirit of adventure

Bacacao said his tribe started practicing the *bochong* as a result of problems brought about by the emergence the "warrior culture" 200 years ago.

Lubuagan then experienced wealth and abundance as the town's rice production was more than enough for the people, he said.

But he said this status gave people time "to satisfy their spirit of adventure."

"Venturing into the lowlands of the Cagayan Valley to the east, and the Ilocos to the west, they found people were easy to rob because they were kept unarmed by their Spanish rulers. From these hunting grounds, they collected carabaos, gold and other precious metals and treasures like gongs, jars and beads made up of rare stones and gems," he said.

"For easy picking, however, these Kalinga natives also began to rob one another along their hunting paths and raided each other's villages. They developed a culture of arrogance and vanity. They began to decorate their bodies with tattoos depicting their manly exploits. A male body without tattoo was considered naked and a body well-covered with tattoo was considered well-dressed and most desirable to women."

Changing picture

Killings became so widespread that almost every family and clan had members slain by enemies, he said.

Although the people strongly emphasize filial love and loyalty among them, these values have became convenient excuses to heighten anger and hate to avenge a lost family member, Bacacao said.

Tribal elders interceded and developed the *bochong* to stop violence because they believed that the Kalinga society was headed for self-destruction because of the killings.

"So, elders came about to change the picture. By divine intervention and guidance, the elders were able to redirect the attention of their people from killing and creating enemies back to working and building up families," Bacacao said.

In the *bochong*, he said, the elders established a peace agreement guaranteed by honor. The elders argue that a person who can sacrifice his personal feelings in favor of others is an honorable man, he said.

In this town, lawyers barred from settling tribal disputes

By Ben Moses Ebreo
Santa Fe, Nueva Vizcaya

MEMBERS OF THE KALANguya tribe, who comprise the majority of the population of Santa Fe town in Nueva Vizcaya, have rejected the interference of lawyers in the settlement of disputes and cases committed within their community.

"We thank God for giving us this traditional practice of the *tungtongan* (dialogue system). Cases, regardless of their weight, are settled through our system," said Councilor Ernesto Sumakay, 49, of Barangay Atbu.

The system involves the settlement of cases and disputes committed between families or tribes, said Sumakay, whose father has also served as a member of the *tungtongan*.

Cases are heard before elders facilitate the decision-making to be offered as an agreement between the parties involved.

The *tungtongan* has emerged as a traditional practice among the Kalanguya people in settling disputes because of its conformity with their quality of life, Sumakay said.

"This is the least expensive judicial system for us since most Kalanguya tribe members only subsist on farming. We cannot hire lawyers and pay court fees," he said.

Members of the *tungtongan* are chosen according to their profession. They are young and old Kalanguya who come from religious groups, the academe, police, local government and other professions.

Fair judgment

This way, traditional beliefs and practices are discussed to facilitate the crafting of a fair and proper judgment, Sumakay said.

Most of the cases lodged with the *tungtongan* do not even reach the *lupong tagapamayapa* (peace and order body) of their barangay council, he said.

Depending on the severity of the cases, the perpetrators are told to comply with the agreement, whether in cash, kind or any means deemed necessary by the families involved and the elders.

"This is also a form of enforcing discipline within our villages and inflicting punishment among perpetrators to refrain from doing the same offense in the future," Sumakay said.

After an agreement has been made, he said, each party would vow not to repeat the offense.

Sumakay said one of the controversial offshoots of the *tungtongan* system in the town happened in 2002 when Vice Mayor Donior Tidang, also a Kalanguya, faced a rape complaint.

Easing case backlog

Through the system, Tidang paid P90,000 to amicably settle the case. Since then, 30 cases, such as murder, attempted murder and theft, have been settled.

Local court officials also see the practice as a way to declog their dockets, Sumakay said.

The *tungtongan* was conceived during the time of tribal wars to prevent the escalation of disputes through vengeance.

"Christianity has taught us this peaceful method to preserve our kind and to maintain peace in our villages," Sumakay said.

Police said non-Kalanguya residents in the town had also recognized the system as a way of settling cases involving the tribe.

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SIDEWALK BED
A boy finds sleep in a pile of used clothes that his mother sells at a used clothes outlet on Claveria Street in Davao City. The sale of used clothes, mostly imported from the United States and other countries, is picking up as prices of new ones rise.

Mayors assail loss of control of water in bill

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pampanga mayors joined the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) and the Philippine Association of Water Districts (PAWD) in opposing the amendments proposed by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile to a law that created the more than 400 water districts in the country.

The Pampanga Mayors League, in a resolution approved on Monday, said the power to appoint the directors of the water districts should remain solely with the municipal and city mayors.

This provision in the Provincial Water Utilities Act of 1973 (Presidential Decree 198) should be retained, the league said.

In Enrile's proposal, the appointees of the local executives were limited to two instead of five in the case of small to medium-sized water districts or seven in bigger water districts.

The Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), which used to merely confirm the appointees, was suggested to appoint the majority who would comprise the board.

The LWUA, created by PD 198, provides financial and technical assistance to the water districts.

Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda, PML president, called the proposal "unjust." He said in diminishing the power of mayors, their roles in the regulation and development of the water districts are also reduced.

"Nobody knows the situation in the localities than the local executives. You bring in an outsider and I'm sure that he would either be unfamiliar or detached or he'll face resistance from local authorities," Pineda said.

The PML said "neither the PAWD nor any member of the local water districts was consulted before the proposed amendments reached the [Senate]."

Pineda said a copy of the resolution will be given to President Macapagal-Arroyo when she celebrates her 59th birthday in Pampanga today (Wednesday).

In Senate Bill 2165 filed in November last year, Enrile sought to increase the capital stock of the LWUA from P2 billion to P10 billion to "enable it to further spread the benefits of improved potable water systems particularly to the yet unserved areas of the country."

In the bill's explanatory note, Enrile said 820 towns and cities are still not serviced by water districts.

The bill also proposed to restore the provisions on tax exemptions to "enable the LWUA to establish and activate about 100 more water districts by 2010."

The LCP, in a policy statement dated March 23, said the proposal to limit the appointing power of the mayors "negates the fact that local government units have a better understanding of their constituents particularly on the delivery of basic services."

The LCP said the Local Government Code of 1991 gave mayors the mandate to address general welfare. Enrile's proposal, it said, was "contrary" to the goals of devolution and autonomy. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Gov't to allot ₱1B as seed fund for OFW bank

MAPANDAN, PANGASINAN—President Macapagal-Arroyo said the government will give the Philippine Postal Bank P1 billion as a seed fund to service overseas Filipino workers:

In a speech during her visit here on Tuesday, the President said OFWs could send their remittances through the post offices of other countries to any post office in the Philippines so the cost of sending money would be reduced.

"We will negotiate with other post offices in other countries, we will fund the (bank's) office equipment like computerization and we will strengthen the bank through a P1 billion fund so you will feel safe in depositing your money there," she said.

Ms Arroyo on Tuesday welcomed 200 OFWs who came home to attend the Mapandan town fiesta. She credited the OFWs for remitting a record $11 billion (P561 billion) last year to the country.

"Because of you, our economy is doing well," she said.

Ms Arroyo also inaugurated the P30-million Baloleng Bridge and the three-story building of the town police during her visit.

Fidel Ginez, regional director of the Department of Public Works and Highways, said the bridge services 60 villages of Mapandan, Manaoag, Sta. Barbara and nearby towns.

Officials and residents of Mapandan also treated the fiesta celebration here as their birthday party for Ms Arroyo, who turns 59 today (April 5, Wednesday).

Mayor Jose Ferdinand Calimlim said the town's birthday "gift" to Ms Arroyo was the signatures of 60 percent of registered voters in the town who endorsed Charter changes.

Calimlim noted that the turnout in this town was the highest recorded in Pangasinan.

Ms Arroyo thanked Mapandan residents for "treating me like your own daughter."

"When I was here in 2004, I gave police cars. Now, I'm giving you a police station, thanks to Director General Arturo Lomibao (Philippine National Police chief), who is also a son of Pangasinan," she said. Lomibao is from Mangaldan town.

The President also promised to give free PhilHealth cards to 150 poor residents of the town. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Fund lack prompts town to mount own bird flu campaign

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CANDABA, PAMPANGA—AS FARMERS like Willie Castro tended to their plots heavy with luscious honeydew, full-grown vegetables and flowering palay on April 2, their feathered companions hardly came in dense flocks on that sunny, breezy Sunday morning.

The 10 or so winged creatures that fed on an empty fishpond near Castro's farm in Barangay Mangumbali were only *tagak* (the long-legged white egret or Egretta garzetta).

Far down south, at a 70-hectare sanctuary in Sitio Dona Simang in Barangay Vizal San Pablo, the 11,500 plus globe-trotting birds spotted during the Asian water bird census in January this year were sorely missed at sunrise or sunset.

Then, there were 35 species in all and three of them were rare: The Purple swamp horn (*Porphyrio porphyrio*), Chinese pond heron (*Ardeola bacchus*) and Black crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), based on the list of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Again, the egrets are late-leavers and they are not too many now to create the magical scene they used to before flying back to roost on Gmelina trees—that of a snow white, slowly dancing patch in the dimming horizon.

"They'll be almost gone by the mid or end of April," said Mayor Jerry Pelayo, the owner of the fishpond-turned-sanctuary.

That was woe to local and foreign bird watchers who came in droves armed with telephoto lenses and binoculars, but that signaled relief to the mayor.

Who wouldn't when at the tailend of the wintering refuge and breeding season that began in October, the migratory birds have shown to have left no trace of the deadly H5N1 avian influenza virus on local poultry or people.

"There's not even a case," Pelayo said. But that, he added, was because his town took the bird flu watch seriously.

"Without support from the national [government]," he hastened to add ruefully. "None at all," he stressed.

The town's anti-bird flu task force made do with little local funds amounting to less than P1 million in its information campaign, monitoring and regulatory efforts in the last six months.

Much of it was about calling for vigilance. In October last year, Pelayo raised the prospect of Candaba being a "potential ground zero" for the virus.

By that time, the World Health Organization warned of a global pandemic following the spread of the deadly strain across Asia and Europe.

The virus had led to the culling of infected poultry and deaths of at least 98 people since 2003.

Pelayo, then presenting a study at a meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, said the chances for that scenario was high at the Candaba Swamp, considered one of the three most important wetlands in the Philippines.

First, the visiting waterfowls are suspected carriers of the virus.

Second, the town at the center of the 32,000-hectare swamp hosts 500 enterprises that raise local ducks in open fields, not in controlled coops, to avail of rice and corn grits and protein-rich snails.

The possible contact of migratory birds and local poultry as well as the potential transmission of the virus is not remote when they feed on common ground.

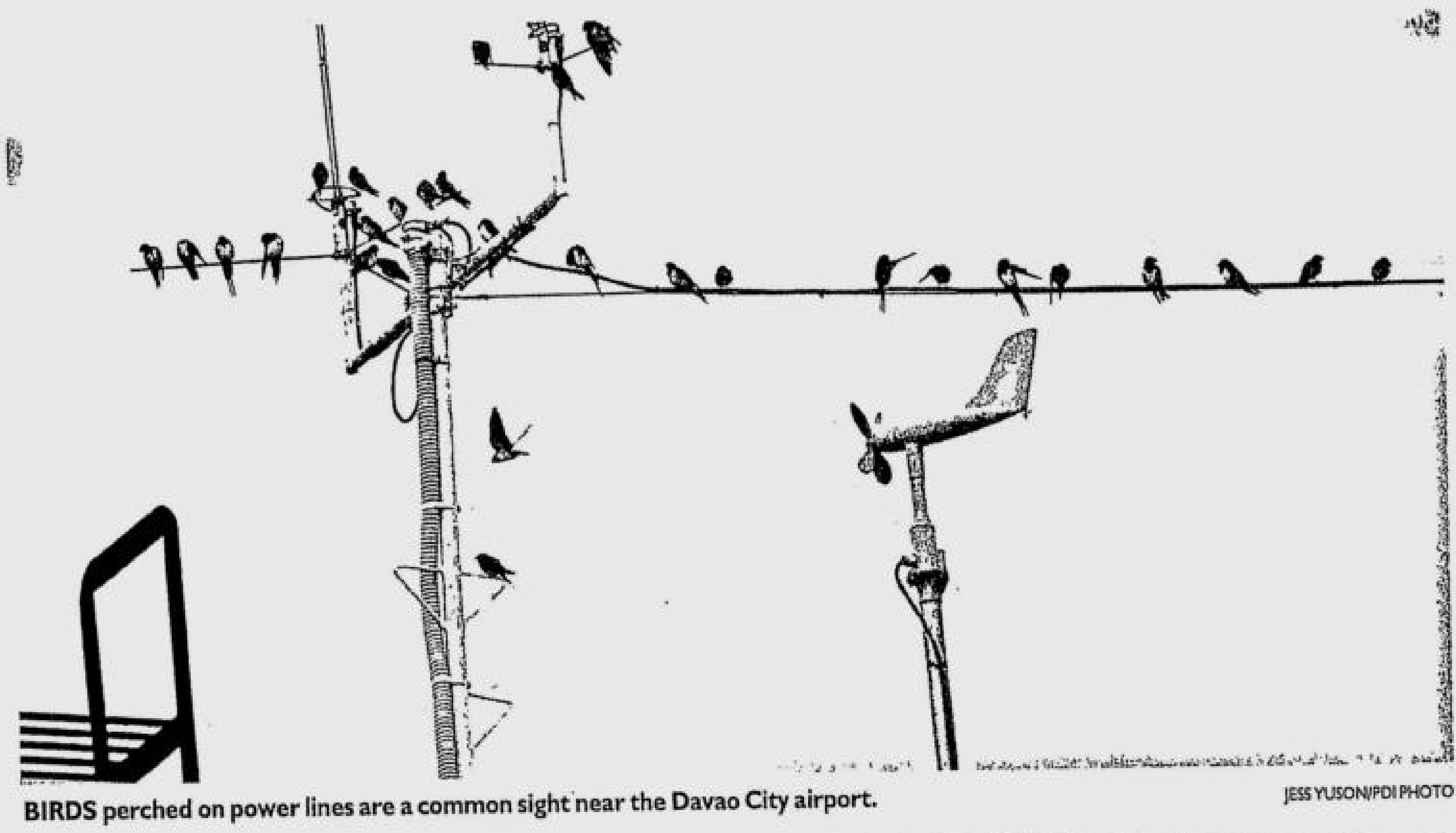
Third, very much unlike the 20 or so marshlands being monitored across the country by the national anti-bird flu task force, Candaba is surrounded by more than 1,000 poultry and pig farms on all sides.

The swamp straddles Pampanga, Bulacan and Nueva Ecija where poultry and livestock industries thrive.

Fourth, in the path of the hazard are some 105,000 people in Candaba's 33 villages and over 10 million people in Metro Manila, 55 km southeast of the town.

The same health risks, Pelayo said, will persist in the next migration season of birds from countries like China, Japan, Siberia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and Singapore.

But Pelayo said he would not like to let his guard down. "The Philippines is resuming and expanding its poultry exports because it remains bird flu-free. If you have that opportunity, you can't afford to see the agricultural sector hurt and we in the local governments should continue to be the first line of defense," he said.



BIRDS perched on power lines are a common sight near the Davao City airport.

JESS YUSON/PDI PHOTO

CHILDREN check ducks for sale amid concerns over bird flu. PDI PHOTO

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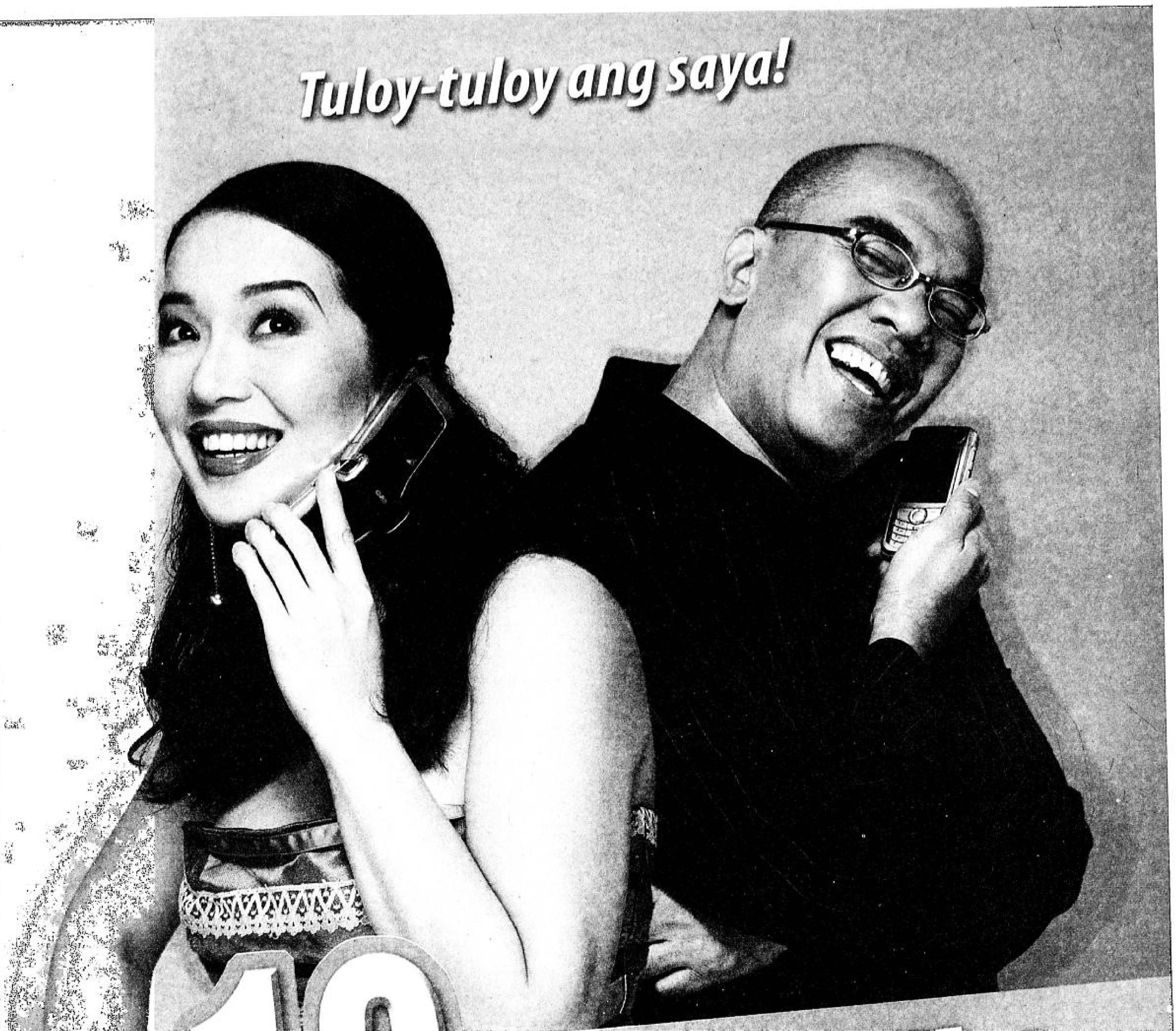
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WHAT'S INSIDE

PHOTO: JOCELYN DIMACULANGAN

- Manila lifts number-coding this summer /A22
- Maynilad cuts off water supply to Smokey Mountain /A22

Cell phone rob-slay suspect arrested

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE ARRESTED THE OTHER NIGHT ONE of three suspects who held up and shot dead a 27-year-old call center employee inside an FX Taxi in Pasig City on Sunday night.

The driver of the Mitsubishi Adventure also positively identified suspect Ryan Concuera, 22, as the one who allegedly shot victim Charlene Santos, 27, in the head.

Pasig City police chief Senior Supt. Romeo Abaring said they have also identified one of Concuera's cohorts as Rodeo Bartolome.

Some passengers recognized Bartolome through a police file photo of notorious robbery suspects.

Second suspect

Bartolome was also taken under police custody last night, but Abaring said they could not yet declare him a suspect because no witness has personally identified him.

Santos, a former University of the Philippines Diliman student, was on her way to meet a friend when three robbers declared a holdup inside the taxi.

One of the robbers, whom the driver identified as Concuera, reportedly lost his temper when Santos refused to give up her cell phone and shot her in the head.

Concuera denied the allegations before reporters yesterday, even if the witness had already positively identified him as the gunman who was wearing a jacket and a cap.

Denial

"I don't know anything about that case," Concuera said as photographers took turns in taking photos of tattoos on his chest, arm and back. But he admitted that he was jailed in 2000 for robbery.

"We have an informant who said the gang struck that evening," PO3 Roger Baltazar told the Inquirer.

Armed with an arrest warrant against Concuera from the Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 71 for another robbery and frustrated homicide case, police barged inside Concuera's house at 8:30 p.m. Monday. Concuera also denied any involvement in the case.

Bring back cops – Eusebio

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

PASIG CITY MAYOR VICENTE EUSEBIO HAS expressed alarm over a string of unsolved high-profile killings in the city in the last three weeks.

He also asked the national police to temporarily stop sending Pasig policemen away for retraining. "Some of our investors have been asking me what is happening. But what can I do?," Eusebio told the INQUIRER.

The mayor was stripped of his police powers last month following his decision to demolish a compound of shanties used as shabu dens in Barangay Sto. Tomas, just five days after the national police raided the compound.

Following the incident, the National Capital Region Police Office had been sending the city's policemen, as well as members of the Eastern Police District, in batches for retraining in Subic, Zambales.

"The National Police Commission should stop sending policemen for retraining without any replacement because it is affecting the capability of the police," Eusebio said.

Last Sunday, a call center worker, Charlene Santos, was shot in the head by three men who robbed the FX taxi she was riding in *(see story above)*.

On March 16, businessman Leonardo Umale was killed in Ortigas Center.

On March 29, Chief Insp. Renato Marasigan of the national police's Internal Affairs Service was shot to death as he was driving his car in Barangay Malinao.

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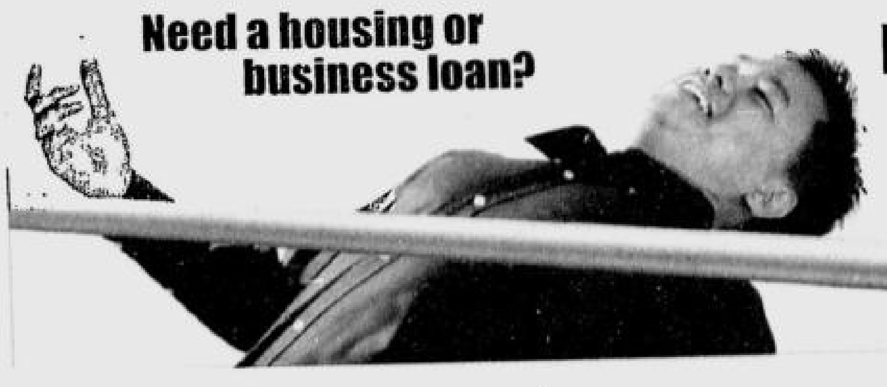

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Unpaid bills end in water crisis in Tondo

By Margaux C. Ortiz

MORE THAN 15,000 RESIDENTS in Smokey Mountain (also called Paradise Heights) have been without water for the past two days after a utility company cut off service to the area because of P8.6 million in unpaid bills.

In a statement, Maynilad Water said members of the Smokey Mountain Community Association Inc. (SMCAI) have not paid their water bills since February last year. SMCAI is in charge of the community which covers 21 buildings. Each building has around 120 units, with each one inhabited by about six people.

No payments

Maynilad said the association members failed to settle their debts despite an agreement with the utility firm last January that they would initially pay 30 percent of the P8.6 million.

In another meeting last March 15, SMCAI officers asked Maynilad to give them until March 31.

Maynilad Tondo Business Center manager Antonio Uy said the association was supposed to come up with a proposed payment scheme to make it easier for the community to settle its arrears. "The failure of SMCAI officials to do so has forced Maynilad to officially cut off water service to the area on Monday," he added.

Maynilad charged SMCAI's water bill through the bulk-selling scheme, wherein the association collected payments from each building and remitted these to the company. With no water coming out of their faucets, Paradise Heights residents have been getting their water supply from a tank provided by President Macapagal-Arroyo's "patubig" program, according to barangay councilor Patricia Regular.

Solution

"We are now conducting meetings on how to solve this problem," Regular said. She explained that the community had a "mother meter," requiring the residents to pay in bulk.

"Not all the residents pay on time, resulting in the accumulating debt," Regular said. She added that barangay officials would request Maynilad to install individual meters in each unit.

"This way, only the irresponsible occupants' water supply would be cut," the barangay official said.

Manila beats rest, lifts number coding

By Margaux C. Ortiz
and Tarra V. Quismundo

MANILA MAYOR LITO ATIENZA jumped the gun on the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday by announcing the lifting of the number-coding scheme in the city this summer beginning today.

"We saw that the number of vehicles on our roads has significantly dropped during the past summer vacations. We are lifting the number coding scheme so everybody can enjoy the summer months," Atienza said in a statement.

The MMDA has proposed the suspension of the UVVRP during the summer break, but is still getting the approval of the majority of the Metro's 17 mayors. Yesterday, four more signed the resolution approving the proposal, bringing to 12 the number of mayors who favor the suspension of the number-coding scheme.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios, however, said that although they already have a majority, they would wait for the decision of the remaining five other mayors, all voting members of the agency's policy-making body, the Metro Manila Council.

"It would suffice for implementation, but we will wait for the other mayors to vote on the resolution, so that nobody would be offended," Vergel de Dios said.

With Atienza's announcement, however, only four have yet to approve the resolution—Jaime Fresnedi of Muntinlupa, Enrico Echiverri of Caloocan, Malabon's Toby Tiangco, and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

Binay, however, said that he was not in favor of lifting the UVVRP. "Traffic volume here does not decrease [during summer]. We will just have a problem if we implement it," he added.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando earlier proposed the lifting of the UVVRP from April to the first week of June, citing a study that showed a 30 percent decrease in vehicle volume on major roads during the summer break.

POLICE LINE DO N

POLICE look on as men dig up a swamp at Barangay Sto. Tomas, Pasig to look for the body of an alleged drug peddler.
JOAN BONDOC

Swamp search continues

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE YESTERDAY STARTED DIGGING up a swamp to look for the body of "Bernardo," an alleged drug pusher whom a witness claimed had been ordered killed by the operators of a shabu mart in Pasig City.

"Finding the body will prove that the operations of the drug mart were highly organized and systematic. This will also strengthen our case against the arrested drug den owners," Chief Insp. Ismael Fajardo of the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force told the INQUIRER.

But as of yesterday afternoon, the five residents tasked to dig up the area had not yet found the victim. The digging was called off at 5:30 p.m., and was set to resume in the morning.

The PNP AIDSOTF discovered a compound which housed more than 40 shanties serving as shabu dens inside Sitio Mapayapa, Barangay Sto. Tomas and arrested more than 300 people in an operation on Feb. 10. The compound was just half a kilometer away from the Pasig City Hall and the Eastern Police District.

Police also suspect that the bodies of victims who had ran afoul of the drug den operators were buried in the compound, Bernardo was reportedly killed because he had told the police about the drug operations at the compound.

Makati biz area gets ready for disaster scenario

By Tarra V. Quismundo

ALL ACTIVITY IN THE CENTER OF Makati, the country's business district, grounded to a halt for several hours yesterday as employees staged a synchronized earthquake drill.

At a given signal, employees of SM Makati, Glorietta 4, the Metro Rail Transit Ayala station, Edsa Carpark, Oakwood Premier apartments, and the Intercontinental Hotel—establishments at the Ayala Center—left their work stations and went to the Rustan's car park. The drill was aimed at familiarizing workers with the emergency procedure to be followed in case of an earthquake and an aftershock that would result in the collapse of a building.

"When there's an emergency, disaster management has to be a coordinated effort, so building tenants should cooperate, and have a cluster evacuation plan, or cluster the whole village, the whole of Makati," said director Renato Solidum of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. Tagged BEEP (Building Emergency Evacuation Plan), the event brought together national and local disaster management agencies and operational units, including the National Disaster Coordinating Council, the Office of Civil Defense, Phivolcs, the Philippine National Red Cross, the Bureau of Fire Protection's Special Rescue Unit, the Ready Reserve unit of the Philippine Army's 9th Infantry Division, the Makati Disaster Coordinating Council, Makati Rescue; and Barangay San Lorenzo.

"We're going through the dry run of emergency evacuation plans, from evacuating the building to mass casualty incidents," said NDCC chair and Department of National Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz.

PARAMEDICS give first aid to a "victim" during an earthquake drill in Makati City.
RODEL ROTONI

Forest park in time for Earth Day

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A FOREST PARK IN PASAY CITY WILL SOON give Metro denizens breathing space in the midst of the urban concrete jungle.

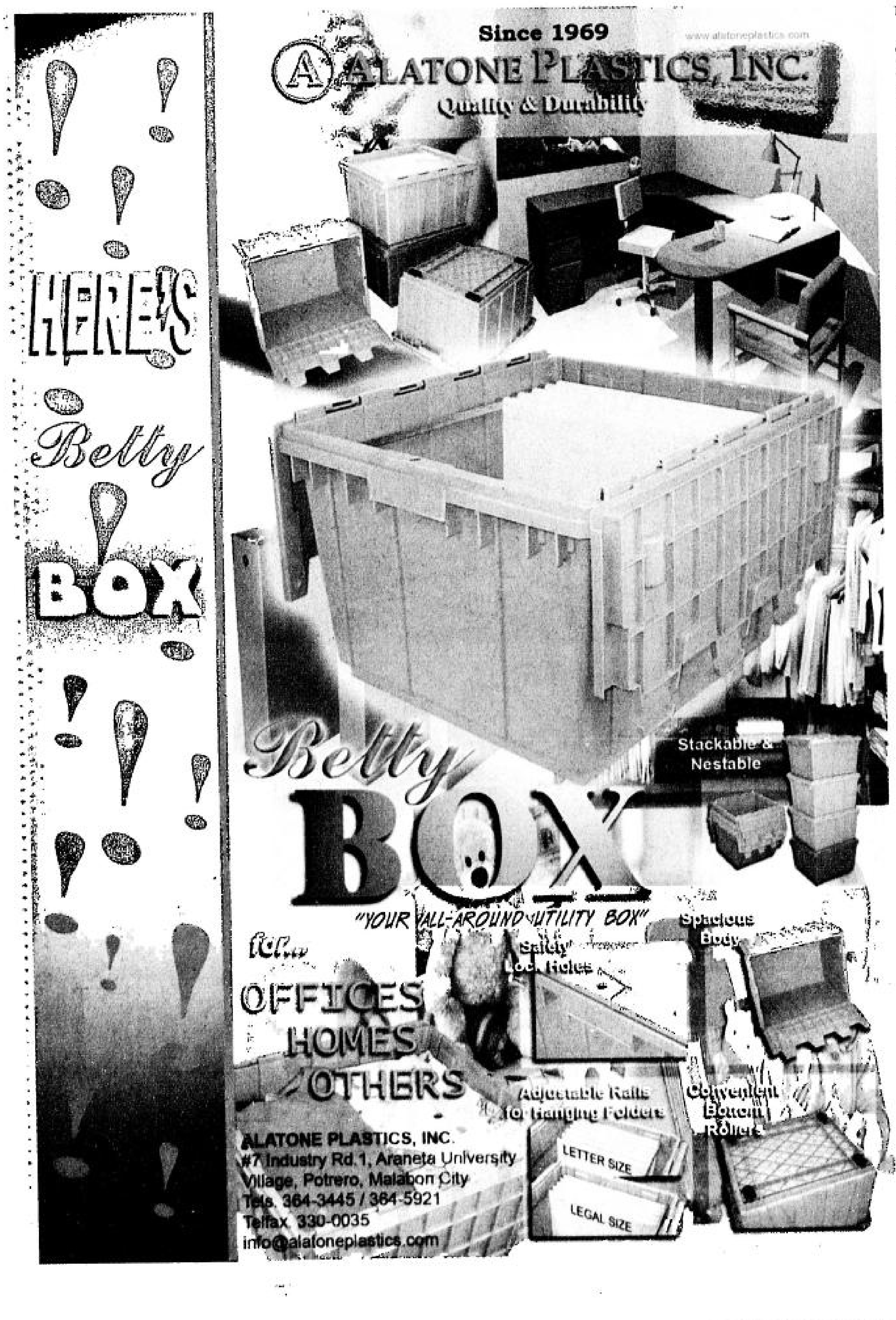
The Cultural Center of the Philippines has dedicated a portion of its property—a 1.6-hectare lightly wooded patch—at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and Vicente Sotto Street as the future site of the Liwasang Kalikasan.

"The CCP is doing this because we want to promote the 'culture-life' concept which utilizes arts and culture as a means to promote environmental protection and preservation," said CCP president Nestor Jardin at a press conference for the launching of Earth Day 2006 yesterday.

Jardin added that rapid commercial and urban development has been slowly choking up Metro Manila, leaving its residents with no or limited breathing space.

In time, the CCP official hopes that the urban forest park will become the main venue for cultural, ecological and educational activities in the metropolis.

Sid Hildawa, manager of the CCP Visual, Literary and Media Arts, added that the project, which has a P22 million budget, will make the CCP Complex not just a cultural center, but also an "economic-environmental zone" that would draw in local and foreign tourists. The park will be transformed into a rainforest lush with native trees, shrubs, flowering plants, and "shade-tolerant" crops . The urban forest park will make its debut on April 22 to mark International Earth Day with a program titled "Sibol: Earth Day at the CCP," featuring a concert and a fashion show.



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Project	Units	Approved Budget*	Cost of Bid Documents
Supply and Delivery of One Hundred (100) units LAN Workstation for the New Integrated Deposit Servicing System (NIDSS) Project	100	P6,000,000.00 Source of Fund: DBP Fund	P5,000.00

***Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening**

Expected Date of Delivery: June 2006
Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Pre-Bidding Conference	April 17, 2006 (Monday) at 9:00 a.m.	6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Submission of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	"On or before" 9.00 a.m. of May 2, 2006 (Tuesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals (Prospective Bidders are encouraged to attend this activity)	May 2, 2006 (Tuesday) at 9:30 a.m.	6th/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines and must have been authorized to engage in the **Supply and Delivery of LAN Workstation for at least three (3) years**. Only Bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested parties may download these forms at www.devbankphil.com.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Prospective bidders may secure the bid documents and Eligibility Requirement Forms from the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City, upon payment of a **non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00**.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 8125702/8189511 loc. 2610

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - March 29 & April 5, 2006)

Thaksin claims victory; political crisis worsens

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S POLITICAL CRISIS intensified Tuesday as the country awaited official results from weekend snap elections, after Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra claimed victory and his opponents resumed calls for his resignation.

Thaksin said late Monday that he had won 57 percent of votes, according to preliminary results, but that he would address his opponents' accusations of corruption and abuse of power by letting an independent committee decide whether he should step down.

"I want to set up an independent committee to bring together all those with different opinions to find a way forward. If that committee tells me to quit, then I will quit," Thaksin said, speaking live on prime-time television in his first substantive comments since Sunday's election.

The Election Commission was initially expected to release complete poll returns Tuesday but it has said there could be a delay. By Tuesday morning, counting had only been completed for about half the country's 400 constituencies, Ekachai Warunprapha, the commission spokesperson, told The Associated Press.

"We do not know when we will be able to make the official announcement," he said.

Thaksin's critics—who for two months have been staging rallies drawing as many as 100,000 people—rejected the prime minister's idea of a reconciliation committee as insincere and called for new anti-government protests this week.

"Thaksin should accept that the people have given him a big slap in the face," said Chamlong Srimuang, a leader of the People's Alliance for Democracy, which organized the anti-government demonstrations that prompted him to call early elections. "We do not accept any proposal by Thaksin. We stand firm on demands for Thaksin to quit."

AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Memorial Mass for John Paul II

ROME—Tens of thousands of pilgrims, many of them holding up pictures and relics of the late John Paul II, flocked to a memorial mass in St Peter's Square Monday celebrated by the late pontiff's successor Pope Benedict XVI. Benedict concelebrated the solemn mass with around 30 cardinals, most of them appointed by John Paul II. In his homily, the 78-year-old pontiff paid tribute to his predecessor's faith, - which he said was "strong and authentic and free from fear and compromise." Benedict said such faith had a "contagious effect on the hearts of so many people, due also to so many apostolic pilgrimages in every part of the world and especially due to his last journey, which was his agony and his death." *AFP*

Sharon to undergo skull operation

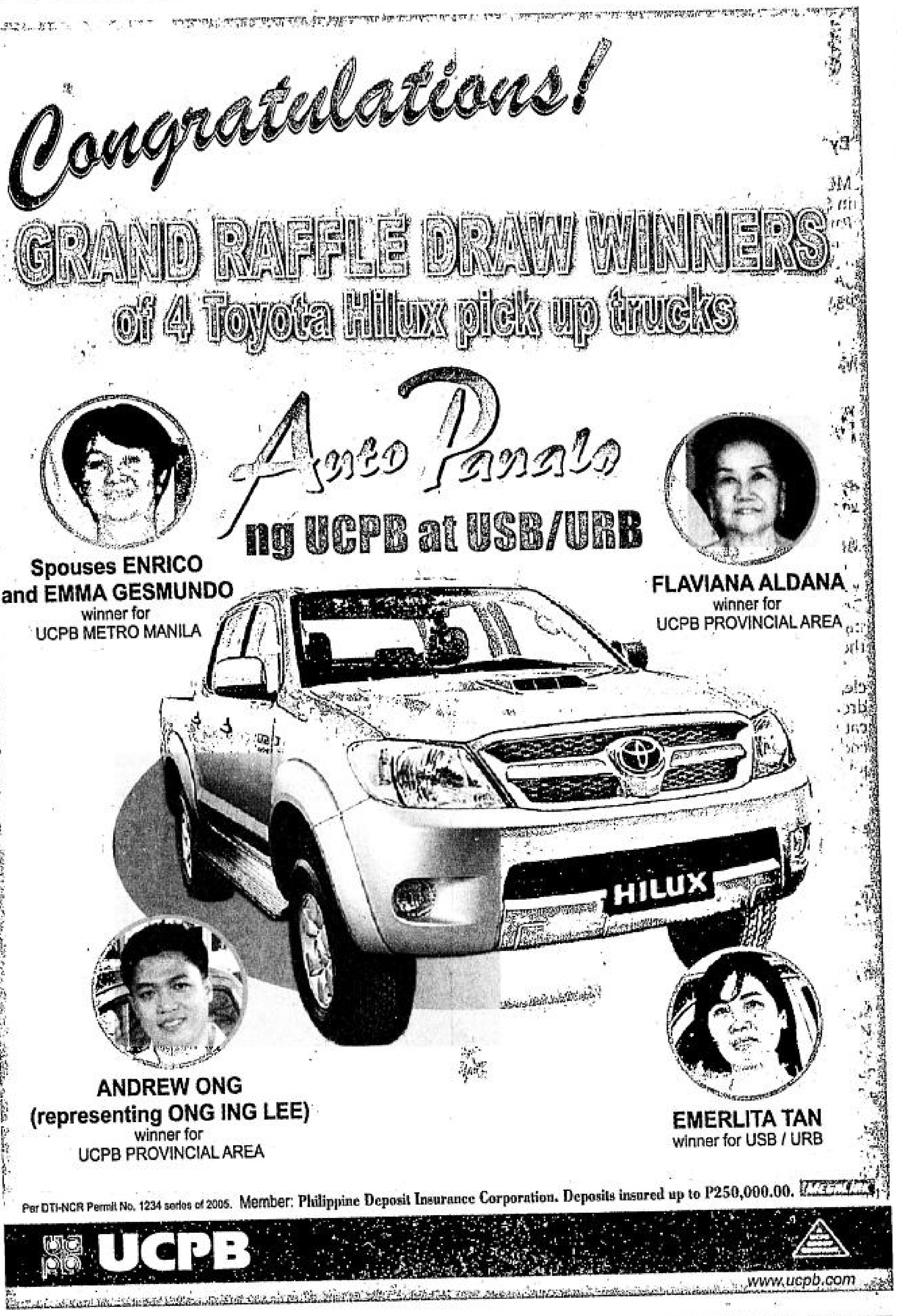
JERUSALEM—Comatose Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon will undergo an operation on his skull Tuesday, said a spokesman for the hospital where he is being treated. "Prime Minister Ariel Sharon will undergo an operation Tuesday to restore part of the skull which was perforated during an operation after his brain hemorrhage," said the spokesman for the Hadassah hospital, Ron Krummer. He said that the surgery "does not mean there is a deterioration in Sharon's health," whose condition is still "serious but stable." *AFP*

Moussaoui eligible for execution

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—A federal jury found on Monday that Zacarias Moussaoui was responsible for some of the deaths that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, and is thus eligible to be executed. The unanimous verdict means that Moussaoui may now be weeks from being sentenced to death. Moussaoui sat silently as the verdict was read, seemingly mouthing prayers to himself. The jury was stoic as were most of the handful of relatives of Sept. 11 victims in the courtroom, although two quietly wiped away tears. ***New York Times News Service***

24th bird flu death in Indonesia

JAKARTA—An eight-year-old Indonesian girl who died last year has been confirmed by the World Health Organization as the nation's 24th bird flu fatality, a health ministry official said Tuesday. Runizar Rusin, the head of the health ministry's bird flu command post, told AFP that samples taken from the girl were only recently sent to Hong Kong for testing by a WHO-affiliated laboratory. Her 38-year-old father and one-year-old sister were confirmed last year as dying of the H5N1 virus and were Indonesia's first human cases. *AFP*



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

World's first reengineered bladders

BOSTON—AT AGE 16, KAITLYNE MCNAMARA is different beyond her defective spine, crutch, leg braces and 54 surgeries. She has one of the world's first reengineered bladders.

It is the first time a complex human organ like the bladder has been mostly replaced with tissue grown from a patient's own cells. Only simpler tissues—skin, bone, and cartilage—have been lab-grown and transplanted in the past.

"It's really science fiction at its best," said Kaitlyne's mother, Tracy McNamara.

The bladder transplants, performed on seven patients ages four to 19, were being reported online Tuesday in The Lancet medical journal—a breakthrough that could hold exciting promise for someday regenerating ailing hearts and other organs.

"This suggests that tissue engineering may one day be a solution to the shortage of donor organs in this country for those needing transplants," said Dr. Anthony Atala, the lead researcher.

Growing other organs will likely hold unforeseen challenges, however, since organs are so specialized in their functions, scientists stress.

Even for people with bladder disease—and there are an estimated 35 million in the United States alone—Atala's technique requires testing on more patients and for longer times, researchers say. Replacing an entire bladder would pose many more problems, including reconnecting urine tubes, blood supply and nerve signaling, according to Dr. Steve Y. Chung, an Illinois urologist who wrote a commentary for The Lancet.

Still, he called the work "a tremendous, tremendous advance."

For the children and teenagers in the study, the transplants reduced leaking from their bladders—a potentially big gain in quality of life. For Kaitlyne McNamara, the transplant has meant a new social life.

Since birth, the teen from Middletown, Connecticut, has coped with spina bifida, a defect that leaves the spine incompletely closed. She's trudged through a grinding series of medical tests, treatments and procedures.

There was the urinary infection that nearly killed her as a toddler. There were the surgeries to correct her spine and legs. By age 11, there was the kidney damage from her weak bladder that again put her life in jeopardy.

Yet maybe the worst part, for a teenager, was simply being different. "I didn't fit in with the kids," she said. "Sometimes the kids made fun of me."

It was not necessarily her crutch, braces, or 126-cm that set her apart, at least in her mind. It was more the accidents from her diseased bladder, which would frequently leak.

That was before her surgery five years ago. Now, her kidneys are working again, and she no longer wears a diaper. Instead, she was waiting for alterations on a low-cut champagne-colored dress for her junior prom.

"Now that I've had the transplant, my body actually does what I want it to do," she said last week. "Now I can go have fun and not worry about having an accident."

Scientists, marveling at how animals like salamanders regenerate lost limbs, have long toyed with the futuristic possibilities of regrowing worn-out or injured human parts. *AP*

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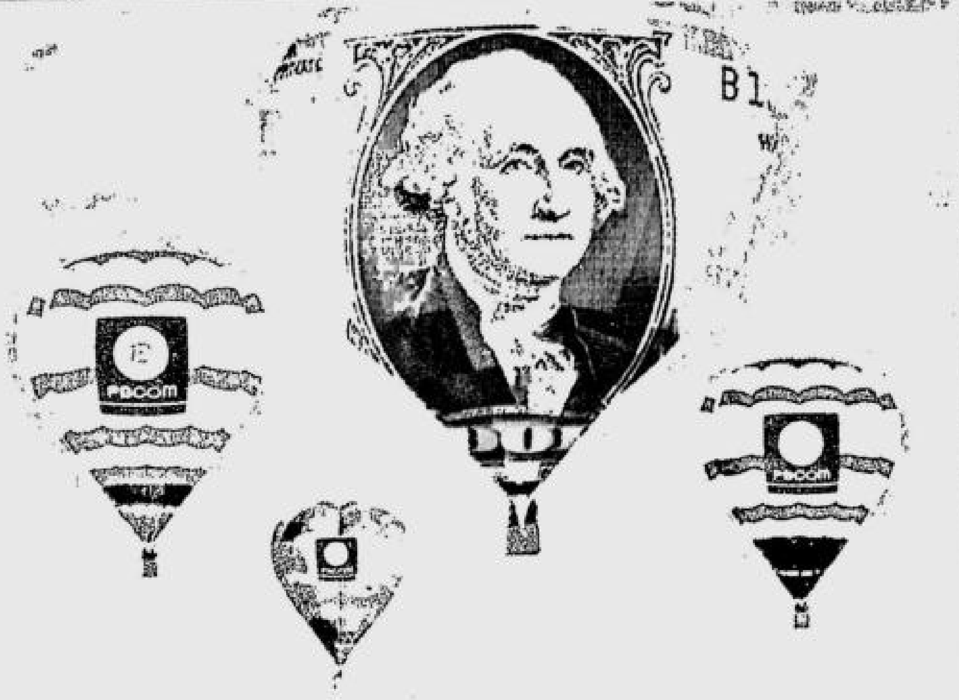

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Defiant Taylor pleads not guilty to war crimes

FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE—IN HIS FIRST appearance before a special international tribunal, Charles G. Taylor, the former Liberian president, pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes Monday after refusing to recognize the court's jurisdiction and accusing it of meddling in the region's affairs.

"I think this is an attempt to divide and rule the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone and so most definitely I am not guilty," Taylor said amid tight security at a packed hearing before the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

"I did not and could not have committed these acts against the sister republic of Sierra Leone," said Taylor, who was arrested while trying to flee Nigeria last Wednesday and sent here to face trial.

Taylor seemed defiant and at times upbeat, blowing a kiss to members of his family in the courtroom and flashing a wide grin. During the brief proceeding he stared down the chief judge, Richard Lussick of Samoa, forcing him to ask three times if Taylor understood the charges against him.

Eventually Taylor said he did, and then argued that as "Liberia's 21st president," the court held no jurisdiction over him. *New York Times News Service*

Astronomers spot alcohol cloud 463-B km long

PARIS—ASTRONOMERS SAY THEY HAVE spotted a cloud of alcohol in deep space that measures 463 billion km across, a finding that could shed light on how giant stars are formed from primordial gas.

The vast bridge-shaped cloud of methyl alcohol has been spotted in a region of our galaxy, the Milky Way, that is called W3(OH), where stars are being formed by the gravitational collapse of concentrations of gas and dust, the discoverers said in a press release.

Methanol, an organic (carbon-based) molecule, is a cousin of ethanol, which is found in alcoholic beverages. Methanol is not suitable for human consumption.

The cloud was spotted by astronomers based at Britain's Jodrell Bank Observatory led by Lisa Harvey-Smith. Their work was to be presented on Tuesday at a meeting in Leicester, central England, of the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS). *AFP*

DR. DANIEL Eberli of the Institute for Regenerative Medicine at Wake Forest University School of Medicine seeds a specially constructed biodegradable mold, shaped like a bladder, with human bladder cells during a procedure resembling basting a turkey. AP

New documents show Mozart wasn't as poor as many believed

VIENNA—FOR CENTURIES, HISTORIANS have portrayed Mozart as poor, but new documents suggest the composer wasn't nearly as hard-up for cash as many have believed.

Scholars who combed through Austrian archives for an exhibition opening Tuesday on Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's later years in Vienna found evidence that he was solidly upper-crust and lived the good life.

Although letters show that Mozart repeatedly borrowed money from friends to pay for his travels and his social obligations, and that his family was forced to move at least 11 times, documents on display at Vienna's prestigious Musikverein reveal that he earned about 10,000 florins a year—roughly 3,300 euros, or US$4,000, in today's terms.

That would have placed him in the top 5 percent of wage-earners in late 18th-century Vienna, say experts, who were unable to prove lingering suspicions that gambling debts took a big bite out of Mozart's earnings.

The exhibition, which runs through June 30, is part of a year of special events in Austria celebrating the 250th anniversary of the composer's birth in Salzburg on Jan. 27, 1756.

Mozart lived in Vienna from 1784-87, at the height of his brief but prolific music career. Among the works he composed in the Austrian capital was "The Marriage of Figaro." *AP*

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Olympic chief backs POC stand

Assures Cojuangco of IOC support in his row with BAP; vital Fiba meeting up

ROGGE AFP

By Ernesto A.Gonzales

SEOUL—THE PRESIDENT OF THE International Olympic Committee yesterday assured the Philippine Olympic Committee of his support in its protracted dispute with the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

The assurance came during a 45-minute meeting where POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco recounted to IOC chief Jacques Rogge the events that led to the expulsion of the BAP through a unanimous vote by the POC general assembly last June.

The POC move did not sit well with the international basketball federation (Fiba), which banned the Philippines from international caging last year.

With Cojuangco during the meeting were POC vice president and Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, secretary general Steve Hontiveros and legal counsel Ding Tanjuatco. It was held on the sidelines of the Association of National Olympic Committee 15th general assembly meeting at the Hotel Intercontinental Grand Ballroom here.

Cojuangco said Rogge virtually upheld the right of an NOC to discipline and punish a member in backing the POC in its row with the BAP.

To help solve the problem, Cojuangco said Rogge had tapped his right-hand man, Pere Miro, to look into the issue, which the IOC head said he had already heard about.

"I hope we can find a solution (to the basketball controversy) here," said Cojuangco.

Still, a lot depended on a meeting between Cojuangco's group and Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann later in the day. The meeting would tackle the approval of the new basketball group, called Pilipinas Basketball, which four of the five Fiba-mandated major stakeholders had crafted.

Another meeting with representatives of the four stakeholders from the PBA, PBL, UAAP and NCAA is scheduled later in the day.

HOPEFUL IN SEOUL

We are getting there, says grateful Peping

By Al S. Mendoza

SEOUL—EVEN AS THE REAL BATTLE HAS yet to be fought, if not finally won, Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. said yesterday he strongly felt the Philippine Olympic movement had already scored a victory of sorts.

"The meeting with Mr. Rogge (Jacques) was already a victory for Olympism," said Cojuangco, the president of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC). "My admiration for the guy has deepened all the more after having met with him even for only about 45 minutes or less."

Among others, Cojuangco tabled the nagging basketball conflict in his first-ever meeting with Rogge, the charismatic president of the International Olympic Committee, yesterday at the plush Intercontinental Hotel here.

Rogge, the 64-year-old Belgian IOC president, is guest of the Anoc (Association of National Olympic Committee) Conference comprising 203 countries where Cojuangco, as POC president, is the Philippines' head delegate.

Also in the delegation was Ding Tanjuatco, POC legal counsel, who played a key role in expounding the merits of ending the rift besetting Philippine basketball in the rare audience with Rogge.

In the closed door meeting with Rogge, a doctor of medicine who was recently made a Count by the King of Belgium, Cojuangco noted with glee how the IOC president showed his warm reception for the RP delegation and "his positive response on how to bring about a win-win solution to our basketball situation in the Philippines."

COJUANGCO

"He (Rogge) is really a diplomat of world caliber, a gentleman of the first degree," said Cojuangco.

"I'm grateful, indeed, for his having accorded us an audience. His pledge of an all-out support to our basketball cause does not only warm the heart but, more importantly, gives us more reason to bring Philippine basketball back on the world stage."

While admitting that obstacles may yet hamper, if not delay further, the Philippines' bid here to have the Fiba lift the country's basketball suspension, Cojuangco said the Frank Elizalde-instigated entry of Rogge into the issue was "the best thing" that ever happened since the basketball row hit the country last year.

"Yes, it's not yet a done deal," said Cojuangco. "But the signs are positive. We are on the right track. We are getting there."

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Giants, Tigers gun for share of PBA lead

STANDINGS	W	L
San Miguel	5	2
Purefoods	4	2
Coca-Cola	4	2
Barangay Ginebra	4	3
Red Bull	3	3
Air21	3	4
Alaska	3	4
Talk 'N Text	2	4
Sta. Lucia	1	5

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:40 p.m.—Red Bull vs Coca-Cola
7:35 p.m.—Air21 vs Purefoods

PUREFOODS AND COCA-COLA GUN FOR A share of the lead today at the Araneta Coliseum against rivals which have had contrasting fortunes in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup.

The Tigers take to the court at 4:40 p.m., going up against Fiesta Conference champion Red Bull. The Bulls will go into that game still hurting from a 93-80 loss to Purefoods, the team they beat for their latest title.

The Giants, on the other hand, tangle with Air21 in the second game. The Express are riding high on a 113-100 win against Sta. Lucia in Calabagan, Isabela, over the weekend.

"We tinkered with people coming off the bench and so far, it has produced wonders for us," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio following victories over the Bulls and the Alaska Aces.

On both occasions, Gregorio's shock-troopers proved instrumental.

Richard Yee led the charge of the Purefoods bench in the Red Bull game, drilling in his biggest output since registering a career-high 23 points during the 2001 Commissioner's Cup.

The 6-foot-4 former UST Growling Tiger went five of seven from the field and made nine of his 11 charities to finish with 19 points and lead the Giants to their fourth win in six games.

Before that, it was Marc Pingris who starred for Purefoods' reserves, scoring heavily in the first half of a 91-73 rout of the Aces to kick off a winning run that the Giants hope to stretch to three games when they face the Express.

Also providing spark off the bench was Eugene Tejada, a journeyman who never made an impact for either San Miguel or Alaska prior to his Purefoods stint. Tejada has transformed into an added offensive threat to complement James Yap and Kerby Raymundo.

"The challenge for these guys is to play consistently at all times," said Gregorio. "The starters are always there but the players coming off the bench have been giving us different looks every game."

The Tigers are hoping to snap a two-game slide that followed a 4-0 start. They fell prey to the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals in humiliating fashion, 100-82, and dropped an 84-81 thriller to a victory-hungry Barangay Ginebra Kings.

Red Bull is struggling for a semblance of consistency this conference. The Bulls have been on and off, splitting their six assignments so far for an even 3-3 record. The Express (3-4) are hoping for a victory that will allow them to dislodge the Bulls from solo third place. *June Navarro*

Sports official talks too much

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

PEOPLE ARE SAYING that it's going to be a race to the Mount Everest summit among two individuals—Romi Garduce and Dale Abenojar, sponsored by GMA-7 and businessman Hank Jacinto, respectively, and the First Philippine Mount Everest Expedition or FPMEE, supported by ABS-CBN.

I beg to disagree.

To start with, as I write this, Garduce and Abenojar are already gearing up for the climb. As of April 3, GMA reported that their bet Garduce, who has a few days' headstart over Abenojar, was already at base camp.

Abenojar left for Kathmandu last weekend to officially start his April 4 ascent via the North route, said to be a faster but more difficult route. Garduce will take the South route.

The FPMEE is not scheduled to make the climb until 2007. The group will be divided into two, with one taking the north route, the other the south.

I've seen so many TV documentaries and read volumes of printed matter on Mt. Everest expeditions to presume that the climb is a racing contest. There are so many factors and forces to contend with on the way to the top (which are too scary to mention), just getting there should be the climbers' primary objective.

As ABS-CBN segment producer Jake Aspiras said, she will be praying for all three groups because whoever gets there first, "*Pilipinas pa rin po ang panalo.*"

* * *

The slit-eyed, wide-mouthed NSA president is at it again.

He has been bragging to a fellow scribe that his group will emerge victorious after the April 4 meeting between the POC/basketball stakeholders and Fiba sec gen Patrick Baumann in South Korea.

He's ready to claim credit for the Fiba's "expected" seal of approval for Pilipinas Basketball. He said it was his enormous influence that made this happen. He was so sure it would happen.

Of course, by now we should know if Mr. Bragadoccio knows whereof he speaks.

But if I were him, maybe it would be prudent to keep a low profile, or to be absolutely quiet about it. It's not nice for a person—who practically killed a popular sport because of his poor leadership—to be talking too much.

* * *

Philippine Football Federation VP Tony Chua is very excited about the forthcoming World Cup of Football. He has learned that the games will be televised by Solar locally and that selected matches will be beamed on closed circuit, just like the fights of Manny Pacquiao and Brian Viloria in Las Vegas.

"The coverage will be a big boost to the sport. *Maraming interesado sa* football, *hindi lang nabibigyan ng* adequate exposure and funding," Tony said.

Solar has big plans for the sporting event, which is wildly anticipated in many countries all over the world.

According to Jude Turcuato, Solar VP for marketing, sports division, football fans can look forward to various activities like football clinics, bar and mall tours, beach tourneys and festivals, leading up to the opening of the World Cup.

* * *

As I was telling Homegrown commissioner Virgil Villavicencio in jest, his two-division basketball league is both "developmental" and "conditional."

It's developmental for the high school players because the tournament will prepare them for major leagues like the UAAP and the NCAA. And it is conditional for the alumni because the event gets aging cagers into better physical condition.

My son Raymond who plays for the UP Alumni, dragged me to the games at the old San Juan Gym last Sunday, where the Maroons played San Beda, also his alma mater in elementary and high school.

I was surprised to see how most of his former teammates—thin as rails more than 20 years ago—had ballooned. They are now 4 to 6 sizes bigger.

But the group had a good excuse.

"We have been so busy working hard for a living, we didn't have time to diet and exercise," chorused Joel Javier, Joey Mendoza, Ricky Dandan, Mando Salva and Rey Madrid who all feel successful in their chosen field.

Joey, Ricky and Raymond are in collegiate and professional basketball coaching, Joel is a banker, Rey is an architect/contractor, while Mando is into drug distribution. Medical drugs, that is.

Hurting Baguion boosts Jewels to 4th straight win

By Jasmine W. Payo

FROILAN BAGUION HARDLY LOOKED INjured.

Playing with a sprained ankle, Baguion clustered 10 points in the stretch to bail out the Montaña Jewels, 60-58, over Rain or Shine yesterday for the lead in the PBL Unity Cup at the FEU Gym.

"I didn't know Froilan would step up," said coach Nel Parado, after the Jewels rolled to their fourth straight win. "Who would have thought he'd play that well? It was a big game for him."

Sidelined in his last game, the 5-foot-8 Baguion, who twisted his ankle early in a win over Magnolia on Sunday, finished with a team-high 14 points and seven assists.

The Elasto Painters absorbed their first loss to slip to 3-1 for second place, in a tie with Toyota Otis which scored a 72-69 overtime decision over the TeleTech Titans in the second game.

Boyet Bautista shot seven of his 13 points in extra time to lead the the Sparks, who posted their second win in a row.

Baguion opened his scoring tear by completing a three-point play to level the game for the last time at 53, with 2:48 remaining.

Heading into the final minute, Baguion buried a three-pointer and sailed inside for a layup to keep the Jewels on top, 58-53.

The Painters surprisingly could not connect, before Jojo Tangkay nailed two free throws to cut the deficit to three, 58-55.

Baguion gave the Jewels more breathing room by making two charities, 60-55, heading into the final 39 seconds. The Painters failed to convert in their final play after a Junjun Cabatu triple had ended scoring for the Painters.

The scores:

First Game

MONTAÑA 60—Baguion 14, Dela Cuesta 10, Juntilla 10, Bono 8, Magpayo 7, Compton 5, Rodriguez 2, Vergara 2, Guerrero 2, Espiritu 0.

RAIN OR SHINE 58—Tangkay 23, Ortiguerra 14, Reyes 6, Malabanan 4, Sta. Maria 3, Cabatu 3, Enrile 2, Sagad 2, Eman 1, Tan 0, Orbeta 0.

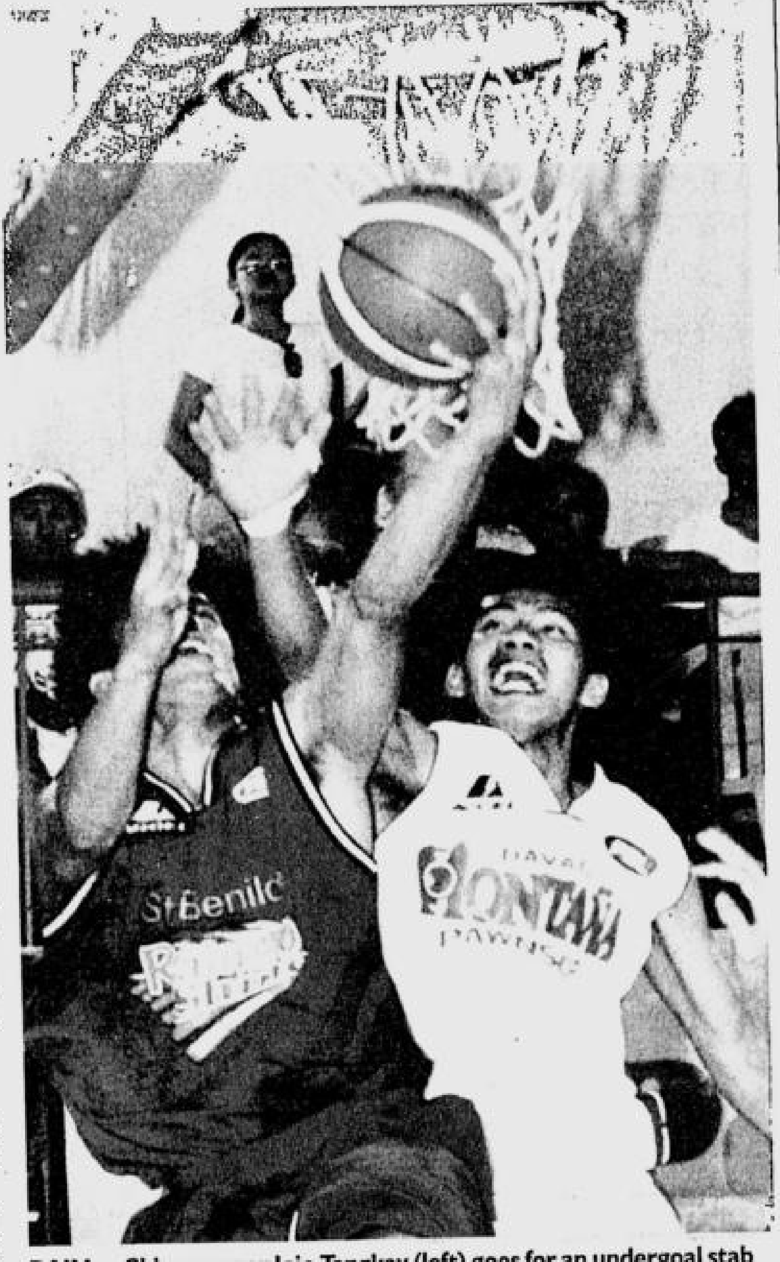
Quarters: 17-18, 27-33, 41-44, 60-58

Second Game

TOYOTA OTIS 72—Bautista 13, Daa 13, Aldave 11, Caslo 11, Andaya 8, Devance 5, Aban 4, Baluyot 3, Larong 2, Coronel 2, Rodriguez 0, Cabahug 0, Fajardo 0.

TELETECH 69—Capus 13, Estrada 12, Mercado 10, Gelig 7, Doruelo 7, Latoreno 7, Bughao 5, Duncil 4, Magdadaro 2, Mendoza 2, Delgado 0, Sierra 0, Villamin 0.

Quarters: 13-12, 32-22, 42-48, 63-63, 72-69



RAIN or Shine gunner Jojo Tangkay (left) goes for an undergoal stab against Montaña's Larry Rodriguez. ERIK ARAZAS

Padyak Pinoy Tour dangles bigger prizes

DAVADILLA

A BIGGER CHAMPION'S PURSE PLUS AUTOmatic berths in next year's starting field are up for grabs in the 2006 Tour Pilipinas-Padyak Pinoy, which has been moved to May 11-21.

The organizing Dynamic Solutions Inc. (Dos-I) and event presenter Tanduay Rhum, in cooperation with Wow Magic Sing, sweetened the Tour's cash pot as part of their commitment to make the annual summer spectacle more exciting.

"We're promising a bigger, better and more exciting race this time," declared DOS-I president Gay Cayton during the formal launching of the Padyak Pinoy at the PSA Forum yesterday at the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila.

Cayton was joined in the public sports program sponsored by Pagcor and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza by Philippine National Cycling Association president Paquito Rivas, Tanduay advertising manager Larry Li, Magic Sing's Rey Lapis and the captains of the 10 competing teams.

Defending champion Warren Davadilla expressed readiness to win a third Tour title, which will be worth P150,000 this time with Cossack Vodka, Air21 and Red Bull as major backers.

"I have really prepared hard for this," Davadilla, also the 1998 winner who edged Frederick Feliciano and Rhyan Tanguilig for the title last year.

Davadilla won P100,000 last year, apart from his share as a member of the champion team Colt 45 squad, which bagged P700,000.

Members of the winning team, the first three individual finishers and the top rookie, will be seeded to the 2007 edition of the Tour.

Rivas recommended the Tour's change of dates from April 20-30 to give local government units time to repair major roads where the 80 cyclists will pass through.

The event is set for 10 laps and covers 1,666 kilometers over 11 days.

Stick-up: Old Mexican steak priced like gold

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

NOW COMES THE CHARGE THAT MEXICO's Oscar Larios, labeled as recycled old meat, is grossly overpriced.

But before everything else, a word from our sponsor. Here's Peter Musngi of ABS-CBN: "For the record, nothing's final or official yet as far as ticket pricing for the Manny Pacquiao-Oscar Larios fight is concerned. We're still in the process of research. The choice of Araneta Coliseum itself as fight venue is not yet final. Our main concern here is the general public, the great horde of Pacquiao fans to whom Manny is dedicating the event."

Musngi says he himself got bothered after word came out that ringside tickets for the fight would fetch as much as $1,000 each, with a choked space in the general admission section, the so-called nose-bleed area, to cost a cool P1,000.

"We're still studying everything, and rest assured that profit is the least of our concern here," continues Musngi, his firm's trusted impresario. "We are here to bring the best, serve the public."

For sure, there would no repeat of the tragic stampede that had resulted in the trampling and death of over 70 people, a tragedy that led ABS-CBN to be charged with negligence.

Of course, it goes without saying there would be no riotous hordes if tickets are NOT pegged within the reach of the poor general public.

* * *

Upon learning of the agitation, Manny Pacquiao informed broadcaster Ronnie Nathanielsz that he would bat for the slashing of the bleacher tickets by half the announced price.

Still that would be a cool P500—way, way beyond the weekly table budget of poor Juan de la Cruz.

Anyway, it's hard to detract from the fact that our dear brothers from the slums, where Pacquiao draws his biggest number of admirers and devotees, would beg and borrow just to be able to see their idol do battle live.

No need to wonder anymore why Pacquiao's impact on the poorest of the poor hereabouts has turned narcotic.

Now, what about Larios, did they have to pay him $450,000 just to square off with the Pacman?

"It's a stick-up, he's not even a world champion and champions get a lot less than that," protested sportsman Rudy Salud through Nathanielsz.

Nathanielsz said Salud, founding secretary general of the World Boxing Council, turned livid because, with the announced Larios price tag, poor Pinoy boxing fans would end up being bled dry by promoters.

Told to slow down after confinement due to heart trouble, Salud said he could not sit back and relax while his poor countrymen are being pushed against the ground.

* * *

Well, the clearer call here is for event organizers to check on whose dirty pocket the bigger bulk of the Larios purse would end up.

There's strong reason to suspect criminal undercutting, as had happened when Pacquiao was victimized by Murad Muhammad, his former promoter.

Will ABS-CBN, which bankrolls the event (reportedly to the tune of P200 million) allow Murad's talkative ghost to resurface in Manila?

Will the super TV network allow itself and the Filipino fight fans to be shortchanged?

Musngi (Jun Sarreal is waiting for your call, sir) called up yesterday to assure everybody they are doing their best to peg ticket prices within reach of the *masa*.

The apt question is: Would they be willing to have a redo of the Battle of Manila Bay of 1996, when Luisito Espinosa's defense of his world featherweight crown was opened to the public?

That could be an option, Musngi explains, although an open-air show would be risky, because of the rains that usually come in July.

Next asks Eric Pineda, top man at Manny Pacquiao Promotions: "By open, do you mean the fight would be offered free to the public?"

Yes!

That was exactly the idea of the First Gentleman, he bares.

Araneta may not be a very healthy option.

Why?

The last two Filipino world boxing champions (Dodie Boy Peñalosa and Luisito Espinosa) who defended their titles there left the Big Dome without their crowns.

Is that so? Thank you, I'll tell Manny your sentiments, Pineda promises.

Filipino booters stall tough Indians in AFC tilt

THE PHILIPPINES HELD FAVORED INDIA TO A 1-1 tie Monday night and stayed in contention in Group A of the inaugural Asian Football Confederation Challenge Cup at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong, Bangladesh.

Mark Alvin Valeroso saved the day for the world No. 91-ranked Filipinos, heading the equalizer in the 18th minute off a Jeremias corner, matching the goal of Indian Vimal Pariyar eight minutes into the game.

The equalizing goal by the 22-year-old Valeroso, a 5-foot-5 midfielder from Zamboanga City, also enabled the RP booters to stave off early elimination after suffering a 1-0 setback to Chinese Taipei Saturday in the 16-team tournament.

Chinese Taipei has four points but the Indians, ranked 18th in the world, are ahead in goal difference. Afghanistan and the Philippines have a single point each.

The Philippines needs to win convincingly against Afghanistan in its final group match today. However, a draw in the other match between Chinese Taipei and India would dash the hopes of the RP booters.

National coach Aris Caslib hopes the equation after the final game favors his team.

"I hope to make it to the last eight stage," he said in the AFC website. *Cedelf P. Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau*

'Bakbakan sa Silang' tonight

THE "BAKBAKAN SA SILANG" 3-COCK DERBY GETS going at 6 p.m. today at the Silang Cockpit Stadium on Kapitan Pepe Street, Silang, Cavite. Promoter Paolo Crisostomo, assisted by Bing Caparas and Aldwin Aure, has put up a P200,000 cash pot for the winners. Entry fee is P5,500. Deadline for the submission of weights—for cocks 1.8 kg to 2.4 kg—is 2 p.m. More than 70 entries are vying in the derby, including Col. Fred Katigbak, Tony Galang, Mike Romulo, Jonjon Logarta, Mayor Areng Poblete, Vice Mayor Ver Amboin, Johnny Elorde, Vic Barros, Paeng Arciaga and Oca Domingo. For inquiries, call 0920-8800680.

Sir Charles, Wilkins lead '06 Hall of Fame class

INDIANAPOLIS—CHARLES BARKLEY AND DOminique Wilkins, two of the NBA's great forwards, and Sandro Gamba, a longtime coach who led Italy to the silver medal at the 1980 Olympics, were among six people Monday to join the Basketball Hall of Fame.

The rest of the class consists of Joe Dumars, who played on the Detroit Pistons championship teams in the late 1980s and helped them win another title in 2004 as team president; University of Connecticut women's coach Geno Auriemma and Dave Gavitt, who produced eight straight 20-win seasons as coach of Providence University and helped establish the Big East Conference. Gavitt was elected as a contributor.

"Charles and I go back since college," Wilkins said. "None of us thought this would happen, we just wanted to play basketball. This is the highest honor that can ever be paid."

Gamba has coached European basketball for more than three decades, coached four straight Italian Olympic teams from 1980-92 and won a silver medal at the Moscow Olympics in 1980. *AP*

- **NBA on TV**

SOLAR SPORTS—San Antonio vs Utah (9 a.m. live, replay at 5 p.m. tomorrow)

SPORTSPLUS—Philadelphia vs Cleveland (7 a.m. live, replay at 7 p.m.); Indiana vs Chicago (9:30 p.m. delayed telecast, replay tomorrow at 2:30 p.m.

Phil's ready for Masters

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA—PHIL MICKELSON'S runaway victory at the BellSouth Classic will have sent a shiver down the spines of many of his rivals at this week's US Masters.

Champion at Augusta National in 2004, Mickelson blew away the field by 13 strokes at the TPC at Sugarloaf with one of the best performances of his career.

A closing seven-under-par 65 left him on an astonishing 28-under 260, an ominous sign with the American known for his ability to get on to a winning streak.

While pessimists argue that claiming a title the week before a major can be a jinx, Mickelson relishes the idea of arriving at Augusta on top of his game.

"I knew I was starting to putt well, to hit some good iron shots and starting to drive it well," the twice major champion told reporters after clinching his 28th PGA Tour title.

"It just kind of came together at Sugarloaf to some low scores. But I don't feel like this is not repeatable." *Reuters*

Gators snap up US NCAA title

UCLA Bruins find no answer to Florida defense, bench

IDA GATORS
WIN
U C L A
57
TEAM 0

FLORIDA players celebrate winning their first national championship after beating UCLA, a school rich in winning tradition, in the final. AP

AFTER playing insignificant minutes last season, Joakim Noah finally proves his worth, leading Florida to the national title. AP

INDIANAPOLIS—SWARMING GATORS DEFENSE AND SUperior bench play delivered Florida's first national basketball title on Monday with a 73-57 win over UCLA.

Sophomore forward Joakim Noah, the son of former tennis star Yannick, led Florida's potent inside game with 16 points on seven-for-nine shooting and had six blocks.

"Everybody was talking about their defense," said Florida sophomore guard Corey Brewer. "We proved who's the best defensive team and we're national champions.

"I felt like we were going to win the game by a large margin when we came in. Nobody gave us respect all year. We proved it."

Florida dominated the opening half and built a 36-25 lead by halftime, with UCLA shooting just 29 percent.

Reserve forward Adrian Moss, Florida's sole senior, provided a boost in the first half with nine points and five rebounds as the Gators' bench outscored UCLA 11-0.

"They're a very good defensive team," said UCLA sophomore guard Aaron Afflalo. "Corey Brewer is a heck of a defender, standing in front of the ball.

The Gators (33-6) opened the second half with a 9-2 run, padding an 11-point halftime lead to 45-27 with 16 minutes to play.

UCLA closed to 65-53 on a jam by Luc Richard Mbah a Moute with 2:35 left but Florida's Lee Humphrey hit an 18-foot three-pointer to quash any hopes of a Bruins comeback.

Humphrey chipped in 15 while Al Horford added 14 for the Gators, who had 10 blocked shots and only six turnovers.

UCLA, which shot only 36 percent for the game and was outscored by Florida's bench 15-4, was paced by sophomore guard Jordan Farmar with 18 points.

Farmar had 12 first-half points on five-of-eight shooting from the floor but he was the Bruins' only threat as the rest shot a horrid three-for-19.

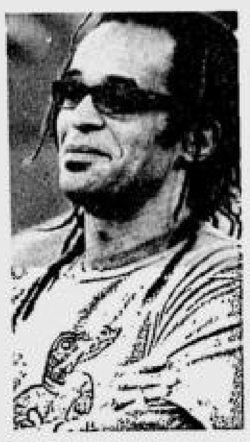
UCLA (32-7) falls to 11-2 in NCAA championship games, its only other loss a 59-54 loss to Louisville in Indianapolis in 1980.

The defensive-minded Bruins entered the game riding a 12-game winning streak having yielded more than 60 points only once.

"Usually, the team that makes the most mistakes is going to be on the wrong side of the win/loss column," said UCLA coach Ben Howland. "Credit Florida. They were terrific. This was their night."

The Bruins also had no strategy to stop Noah. The 6-foot-11 (2.1-meter) Noah had five blocks by halftime, already one better than the championship record set by Arizona's Loren Woods in 2001, and he finished with 29 for the tournament, shattering Woods' record by five. *Reuters, AP*

A legend's son also rises



YANNICK Noah AFP

INDIANAPOLIS—YANNICK NOAH, the French tennis legend, sat in the stands, softly tapping his hands on his thighs, as he watched his son Joakim warm up for Monday's national championship game.

"I'm nervous as hell," the 1983 French Open tennis champion said. "I'm more nervous than him. I know that for a fact."

Yannick must have been right.

Joakim played the game of his life, scoring 16 points with nine rebounds and six blocks to lead Florida to a 73-57 whipping of UCLA.

After the victory, Florida's first title, the younger Noah fell to the floor with his team mates as confetti rained from the roof. The 6-foot-11, 225-pound sophomore forward struggled for words to convey his emotions.

"It's indescribable," he said after the game. "This is the best I've ever felt in my life. You work so hard for these moments. They're so worth it.

"We worked so hard as a team. So much sweat, so many tears, so many sacrifices to get to moments like this." *AP*

'Summer Salpukan' set April 26

A PRIZE POT OF P4.4 million is at stake in the "Summer Salpukan" 6-cock derby which blasts off on April 26 at the Makati Coliseum with B-Meg Derby Ace as sponsor. The event, which will also be held on April 29, May 2, 4, 6, 11 and 13, dangles P3 million cash, a Toyota Vios and a Toyota Altis and two motorcycles. Close to 150 cockhouse reservations at the venue have been received, with some participants fielding two or three entries, according to promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co. For cockhouse reservations, call 896-3545 or 895-6475 and look for Joan or Stephanie.

128 fights today at SJC

PROMINENT COCKERS from the Visayas and Mindanao will square off with Metro Manila derby regulars in the LCC Davao 5-Cock Derby which rages today at the San Juan Coliseum. The first of 128 fights kicks off at 2 p.m. in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor. Co-hosts Dori Du of Davao and Louie Cua of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines have invited 54 participants in this rare showdown among cockfight big guns. Among them are Bebot and Tiaoqui Uy, Nitoy Nasser, Pepe Tan, Rey Castañeda, Elmer and Dodong Codilla, Wakee Salud, Rep. Butch Pichay, Primallion Brothers, Chito Tinsay and Nene Abello.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

Concreting of Road Network of PNOC EC Energy Supply Base Mabini, Batangas

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through the approved Corporate Budget for 2006 intends to apply the sum of Philippine Peso Five Million Eight Hundred Ninety Four Thousand (Php5,894,000.00) being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Concreting of Road Network of PNOC EC Energy Supply Base (BX06-1211). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PNOC EC now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Concreting of Road Network of PNOC EC Energy Supply Base. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before April 19, 2006 @ 4:00 P.M. at PNOC EC Procurement Section, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Pesos Five Hundred (Php500.00). Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on April 26, 2006 up to 3:00 P.M. at PNOC EC BAC Secretariat, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted unless otherwise stated to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City on or before 3:00 P.M. of April 26, 2006.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from PNOC EC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on May 8, 2006.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Php2,000.00 Pesos. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before May 11, 2006 @ 4:00 P.M.

PNOC EC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on May 12, 2006 @ 10:00 A.M. in PNOC EC Energy Supply Base, Mainaga, Mabini, Batangas.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before 2:00 P.M. of May 25, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Surety Bond and in an amount of Php147,350.00 Pesos or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on May 25, 2006 at 2:15 P.M. in PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above mentioned address.

Completion of the Works is required by Seventy Five (75) Calendar days.

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-March 30 & April 5, 2006)

CENTRAL PANGASINAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Tel. # 532-2222 / 532-3146

INVITATION TO BID

The **Central Pangasinan Electric Cooperative, Inc.** (CENPELCO) with office address at Padilla St., San Carlos City, Pangasinan invites all qualified bidders for the supply of labor and materials for the construction of 69 KV sub-transmission line from Lingayen substation up to the proposed 7.5 MVA Binmaley substation at Mckinley St., Binmaley, Pangasinan.

TOTAL LENGTH - 3.530 kilometer

Interested qualified bidders may obtain complete information re: Design and specifications of the proposed project upon submission of a Letter of Intent together with their latest company profile and payment of non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (PhP 500.00) starting April 17, 2006.

Submission of sealed bid will be on April 28, 2006 (Friday) at 2:00 PM (1400 hrs) at CENPELCO main office, Padilla St., San Carlos City, Pangasinan wherein your bid will be opened in your presence or that of your representative.

Request further to include in your sealed bids/proposals the **completion period terms of payment, schedule of activities and commissioning period** for evaluation purposes. The BID BOND is either in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to two and a half percent (2 1/2%) of the total bid price or surety bond equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. Bid bond less than the required amount will be automatically disqualified. Bids/proposals submitted beyond the specified date and time will not be accepted.

CENPELCO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPTS THE BIDS ONLY DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO F. CORPUZ
PBAC Chairman

Noted by:
(Sgd.) ENGR. EDGARDO R. PIAMONTE
Executive Officer/Project Supervisor

(PDI – April 5 & 9, 2006)

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SEAG medalists head Fearless Fighting cast

SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES BRONZE MEDALIST MARK ADDIVA TAKES ON Andrew Benibe of Suntukaran Todo Bakbakan in one of the featured matches in the Fearless Fighting Championships (FFC) which kicks off Friday at the Metrowalk complex in Ortigas Center. Edward Folayang, a wushu gold medalist also in the SEAG, tackles Pan-Asian Open champion Froilan Sarenas of Submission Sports Phils. in the undercard. Other matches pit Noble Ampoc of Yaw Yan Pasay versus Joel Amurao of Wushu Baguio, Jovan of Maic's Gym against Yogs of Fight Club, and Joseph Paslwat versus newcomer Mark de Guzman of Sprawl MMA team. The event, sponsored by Pagcor and PCSO will start at 8 p.m., according to Alex Lopez, promoter and organizer of FFC, a thrilling mixed martial arts event. Admission is free.

Binondo big in gymnastics

MEDAL TALLY (gold-silver-bronze)—Dapitan 22-21-19; Binondo 20-8-5; Pandacan 17-19-11; Paco 15-13-20; Dagupan 12-8-2; Pandacan 9-6-8; Malate 6-2-1; Kamaynila 4-5-6; San Miguel 4-5-4; Balot 1-4-3; Binondo 2-1-0; Ermita 1-0-0; Bustillos 0-2-4; Singalong 0-1-2

RISING GYMNASTICS STARS MAGE Wagan and Bleau Berry Gulfar of Jose Abad Santos combined for 11 gold medals yesterday for Binondo, which sprung to second behind Dapitan in the overall race after Day 2 of the Manila Youth Games at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Wagan and Gulfar swept the rope, hoop, ball, ribbon and all-round golds in the 13-15 advanced level and 16-and-above categories, respectively, and led Jose Abad Santos to the team championship.

Their efforts catapulted Binondo to the No. 2 spot in the medal standings with 20 gold, 8 silver and 5 bronze medals, right behind Dapitan's 22-21-19.

Buouyed by its White Whales swimmers, Dapitan got a total of 10 gold medals from the Ilustre sisters Ingrid and Bianca in pool action Monday.

Binondo's Jose Abad Santos getting all its 20 golds from it. Dagupan's AC Herrera snared 12, and Pandacan's CP Garcia had nine.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Barte too tough for Gumana

TOP SEED RALPH KEVIN BARTE DEmolished Keff Gumana, 6-2, 6-2, yesterday to reach the boys' 18-and-under quarterfinals of the Philta-Truflex National Age Group Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Also advancing were second seed Russell Arcilla Jr., who beat Anthony Rey Laplap, 7-5, 6-4; No. 4 Johnwill Baldonado, who scored a 6-2, 6-2 win over Ryan Daza; and No. 8 James Murrell, who blasted Mark Daniel Flores, 6-0, 6-0.

In the 14-under play, top seed Kim Ivor Saraza downed Nicole Magaway, 6-2, 6-4, and No. 8 Alberto Villamor whitewashed Allaine Pila, 6-0, 6-0, to also advance.

Other boys' results: 12-under—No. 1 Jacob Lagman d. Mark Ramos, 6-1, 6-1; No. 2 Deo Talatayod d. Julain Narvaez, 6-4, 6-1; Calvin Canlas d. Vjom Nipaya, 6-2, 6-2; Jose Alfonso Opulencia d. Rico Raymundo, 6-3, 6-4; Enrique Ferrer d. Vincent Buenaflor, 7-5, 2-6, 6-1; Mark Ervin Concepcion d. Gianne Macandili, 6-0, 6-3.

Jungolfers seek DHL finals slots in Baguio today

JUNGOLFERS RETURN TO ACTION VIA A two-in-one tournament starting today at the Camp John Hay course in Baguio City.

The 54-hole event will serve as the second leg of the Samsung Jungolf Tour's summer circuit and the final eliminations stop of the DHL-WWW national age-group tourney.

The top two finishers in the four divisions (Class A for 15-17 years, Class B for 13-14, Class C for 11-12 and Class D for 9-10) will advance to the grand finals of the DHL-WWW national age-group on May 9-11 at Villamor.

Already in the finals of the event jointly staged by the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines and the National Golf Association of the Philippines are the qualifiers from the Orchard, Bacolod and Cagayan de Oro.

Samsung and Philippine Airlines are the main sponsors of the Jungolf circuit.

Leading the entries is Wolen Superal who beat his older rivals to win the individual title and lead Orchard to victory in team play of last week's Interclub at Mt. Malarayat in Lipa City.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Magiliw (1), Gentleman's Lady (6), Epic Energy (3), Leading Man (5), Samahan (2)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Special Science (9), Eden's Quest (4), Reign of Fire (7), Sheza Slew (1)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Kalmia (3), Aryaam (4), Lord Of All (7), Zubaida (5)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Selfmade (2), Humble Guest (9), Summer Pain (3), Triple Threat (7), Panibugho/Suplada (1)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Black Squall (5), Rosebud (8), Joker (2), Apple Splash (3)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Playmaker (4), Hard To Find (7), Hok Kee Hok (10), Ali Ali Ali (11), Tiger Raffy (14)
race 7—(Pentafecta/Qrt/Tri)—Gemstone (9), Sutter's Quest (10), Shaolin (11), Top Of D'Line (7), Five O'Clock (8)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Golden Act (11), Anytime Anywhere (1), American Idol (8), Piroutte (2), Look Who's Playing (3)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Worth Ur While (12), Sincerity (1), King Yoji (2), Reason To Believe (5), Juanito's Dream (9), Stradivarius/The Magician (10)

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The Ford Road Safety Youth Council during their oath taking ceremonies at the Ford Day 2005.

A first in the Philippine automotive industry, Ford Philippines provided free safety seats to qualified Ford and Mazda customers.

Ford Philippines launched its Road Safety Campaign with the unveiling of the Road Safety billboard at the Tagaytay-Balibago Road.

To raise public awareness on Road Safety, Ford Philippines distributed stickers and safety cards to 10,000 motorists.

The annual Ford Day celebration featured various fun road safety activities for adults and children.

Road Safety: Our Lives Depend On It

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

SOLIMAN rehearses Nathan with a compact mirror on the set of their award-winning movie.

'Maxi' grateful to acting coach

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TEEN ACTOR Nathan Lopez is brimming with gratitude for his acting coach and screen father Soliman Cruz.

The high school sophomore has just won his first international award—Best Actor in the 7th Las Palmas de la Gran Canaria Film Festival, held in the Canary Islands from March 24 to April 1—for his performance in ufo Pictures' "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros."

Prior to this, Lopez and the movie had been swamped with accolades here and abroad.

Focus

"He took good care of me," he said of Cruz in a phone interview with INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday. "He didn't leave me on my own. He focused on me until I could act convincingly like a gay boy."

The 14-year-old Pinoy tied with Spain's Israel Gomez for Best Actor, teenage star of "La Leyenda del Tiempo (The Legend of Time)."

"Maximo," the movie, also won the Grand Prize and Audience Award in the Las Palmas fest.

"It's the first time in that film fest's history that one movie won the top three awards," director Auraeus Solito told INQUIRER via a text message from Madrid.

"Maximo" scriptwriter Michiko Yamamoto sounded thrilled when she said, "I am proud of Nathan."

Unexpected

Last July, Lopez was awarded a Special Citation for Best Performance at the Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival.

Of the Las Palmas award, he said he was "very happy because it is my first international award... and the film has gone so far."

Lopez was on a family outing in Bulacan when INQUIRER caught up with him, a day after the Canary Islands victory.

"It was unexpected," Lopez said.

He recalled that

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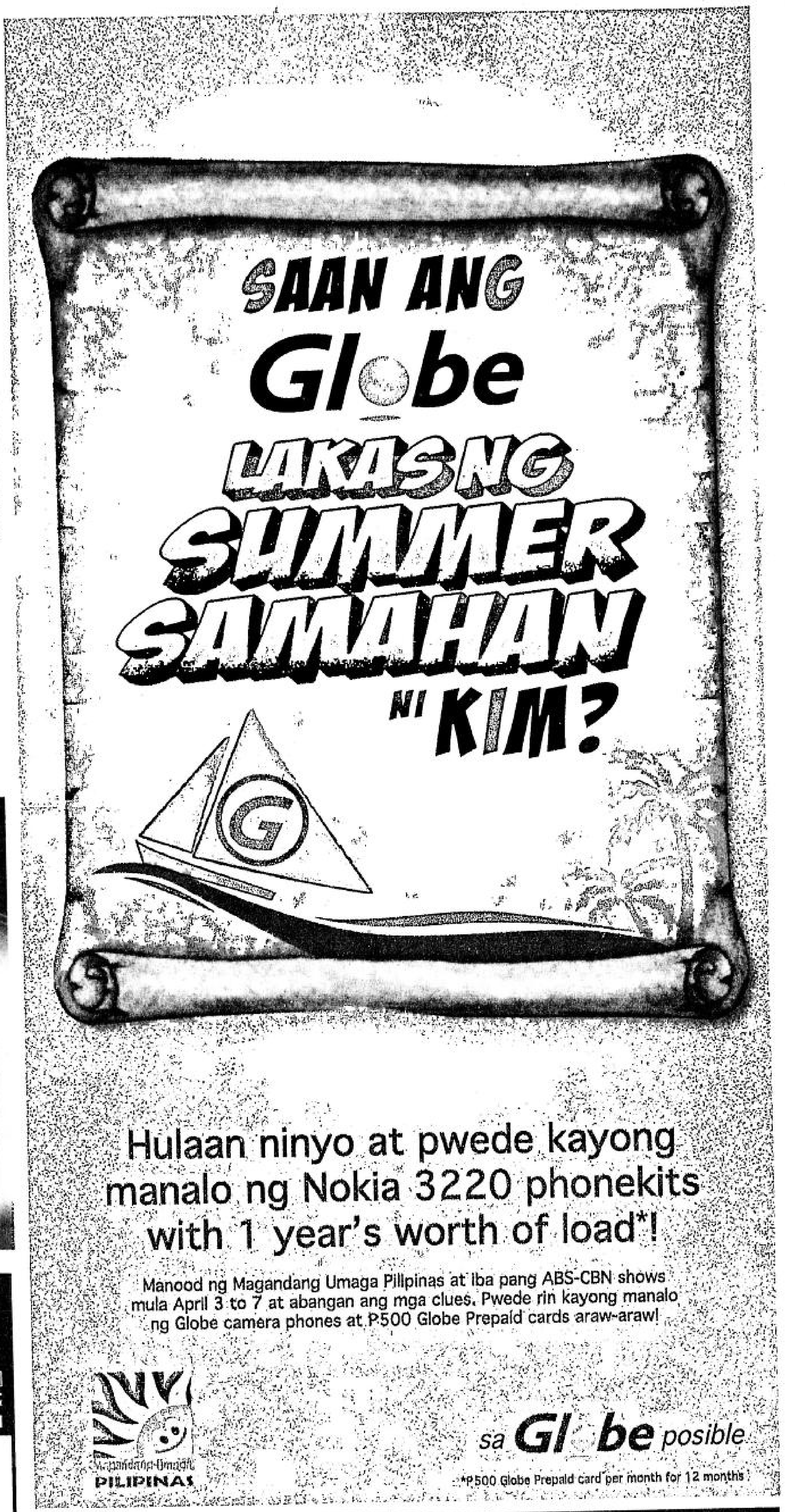

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11 V FOR VENDETTA
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2 JUST FRIENDS
3 BANDIDAS
4 GRANDMA'S BOY
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 VENOM
7 NANNY McPHEE
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9 SHE'S THE MAN
10 V FOR VENDETTA

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1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 JUST FRIENDS
4 BANDIDAS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 ICE AGE 2
2 BANDIDAS
3 VENOM
4 GRANDMA'S BOY
5 JUST FRIENDS
6 MOMENTS OF LOVE

SM CITY MANILA
1 GRANDMA'S BOY
2 ULTRAVIOLET
3 SHE'S THE MAN
4 ICE AGE 2
5 NANNY McPHEE
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7 CHINESE TALL STORY
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3
9 MOMENTS OF LOVE
10 V FOR VENDETTA
11 VENOM
12 JUST FRIENDS

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 ICE AGE 2
2 BANDIDAS
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 VENOM
5 GRANDMA'S BOY
6 JUST FRIENDS
7 FINAL DESTINATION 3
8 SHE'S THE MAN
9 ULTRAVIOLET

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 SHE'S THE MAN
4 JUST FRIENDS

SM CITY SUCAT
1 JUST FRIENDS
2 ICE AGE 2
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 BANDIDAS

EVENT CALENDAR SM CENTER Stage **EVENT CALENDAR**

Parokya ni Edgar

APRIL 7, 2006
FRIDAY • 8:30 PM
SM NORTH EDSA
CINEMA 1
Tickets at
(P180 • P280 • P380)

APRIL 8, 2006
SATURDAY • 8:30 PM
SM MEGAMALL
CINEMA 3
Tickets at
(P300 • P500 • P800)

Nina Beyond Limits

Tickets available at TICKETWORLD 891-5610/ 891-9999

LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 SHE'S THE MAN
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 ICE AGE 2

SM CITY MARILAO
1 VENOM
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 ICE AGE 2
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 HOUSE OF FURY
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 ICE AGE 2
4 CASANOVA

SM CITY BACOOR
1 NANNY McPHEE
2 SHE'S THE MAN
3 ICE AGE 2
4 ULTRAVIOLET
5 BANDIDAS
6 MOMENTS OF LOVE
7 VENOM
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM CITY STA. ROSA
1 VENOM
2 THE DARK
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 ICE AGE 2

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 ICE AGE 2
2 ULTRAVIOLET
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 NANNY McPHEE
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 MOMENTS OF LOVE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 HOUSE OF FURY
2 ICE AGE 2
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE

SM CITY MOLINO
1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 SHE'S THE MAN
4 VENOM

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 ULTRAVIOLET
11:20FS / 11:30 MF / 01:10
02:50 / 04:30 / 06:10
07:50 / 09:22 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:00 END
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
11:20FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30
3:30 / 05:30
07:30 / 09:10 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:10 END
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
11:20FS / 11:30 MF
01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30
07:30 / 09:06 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:05 END
4 NANNY McPHEE
5 V FOR VENDETTA
6 VENOM
7 MOMENTS OF LOVE
8 ICE AGE 2

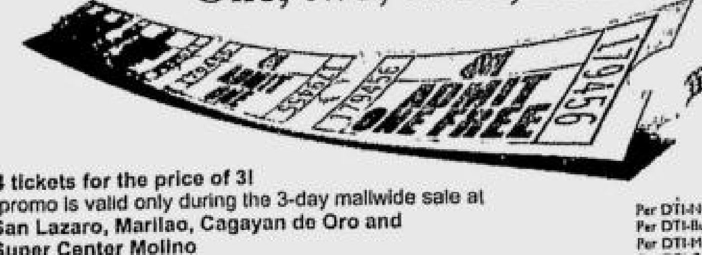
SM CITY ILOILO
1 HOUSE OF FURY
2 RESERVED
3 ICE AGE 2
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 VENOM
7 RESERVED
8 THE DARK

SM CITY DAVAO
1 CASANOVA
2 NANNY McPHEE
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 CASANOVA
5 SYRIANA
6 ICE AGE 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN
1 HOUSE OF FURY
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 ICE AGE 2

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

One, two, three, FREE!



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Per DTI-Bulacan Permit # 011, Series of 2006
Per DTI-MOR-X-035, Series of 2006
Per DTI-Cavite Permit #098 Series of 2006

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

The Hills Have Eyes

Stars Aaron Stanford, Ted Levine, Kathleen Quinlan

Directed by Alexandre Aja

Wes Craven's 1970s slasher cult classic is revisited. A clueless family wanders into an atomic wasteland and is terrorized by a clan of murderous mutants. Erin Meister of the Boston Globe calls it a "giddy and horrifying remake… filmed in almost maddeningly sharp detail, the goriest scenes wind up being a nauseating confusion of blood and body parts… surprisingly artful." Bob Longino of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution begs to differ, though: "[It] likes its violence plentiful and intense… there are axings, a crucifixion-style torching, gunshots and explosions… sometimes it works; sometimes it's just horror-movie overkill."

Bandidas

Stars Penelope Cruz, Salma Hayek, Steve Zahn, Sam Shepard

Directed by Joachim Roenning and Espen Sandberg

A savvy aristocrat (Cruz) and a tempestuous farm girl (Hayek) reluctantly team up as a Latina version of "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" in this $60-million production. They rob banks and battle with a ruthless enforcer. Cruz tells the press: "Salma and I were very excited when we read the funny script." Vince Leo of

OPEN

Qwipster's Movi
goofy adventure.
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Shirley Jo
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Stretching To New Heights!
ICE AGE 2
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MTRCB ▶ G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED

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Cinema	Title	Rating
1	THE HILLS HAVE EYES	R13
2	ICE AGE 2	G

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PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING

Cinema	Title	Rating
3	GRANDA'S BOY	R13
4	BANDIDAS	
5	ICE AGE 2	GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

APRIL 8 ,2006	CANDY PANGILINAN	8:00PM
APRIL 28 ,2006	FREESTYLE & POPS FERNANDEZ	8:00PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	TEATRINO DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
APRIL 6, 7,8,27,28, 29 , 2006	WERE STILL HOT "THE MUSICAL" FOR INQUIRIES CALL 722-4532 LOC. 116	9:00PM

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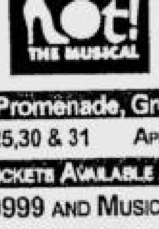
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TEATRINO 722 4532 LOCAL 116

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P1,000 & P800

Director Leo Rialp
Musical Director Danny Favis Set Designer Mio Infante Costumes Eric Pineda
Lighting Designer Voltaire de Jesus Choreography Liesl Laforteza

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NG TODAY

Reviews describes it as "a . that lacks that spark of cre- t different... [The two lead in chemistry, it's a shame they aden plot. [It] was probably a make, but unfortunately the spill over to the big screen." terrieu of Filmdeculte.com ly subtitled her piece on "this i Western": "Boobs, I did it

ma's Boy

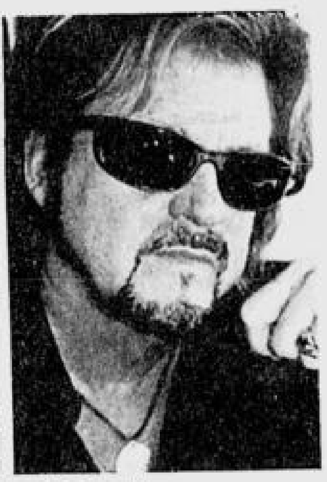
llen Covert, Doris Roberts, nes, Shirley Knight
d by Nick Goossen

n hilarity erupts when a 36- l video game nerd moves in his grandmother and her mates. To impress his fellow s, he tells them he's cohabit- with sultry babes. A.O. Scott the New York Times declares that "this vulgar comedy... cheerfully invites the audience to descend to a level where no joke is too silly or raunchy." Richard Scheib of Variety thinks it's "an Adam Sandler film sans Adam... Sandler diehards may pass on this mostly derivative paean to compulsive computer geekdom and male sexual dysfunction." Joshua Tyler of Cinemablend.com observes that it "desperately wants to be 'The 40-Year-Old Virgin'... [but it's] a pretty low-brow, hard-R comedy... with a surprisingly talented cast."

A Chinese Tall Story

Stars Nicholas Tse, Fan Bing Bing, Charlene Choi, Chen Bo-lin
Directed by Jeff Lau

Based on the Chinese classic "Journey to the West," it chronicles the adventures of devout monk Tripitaka and his precocious pals—Monkey King, Sandy and Pigsy—as they attempt to retrieve Buddhist scriptures. They meet monsters and maidens along the way. Think of an Oriental "Star Wars." Karazen.com says this movie boasts a budget of HK$100 million. According to Variety, "a fifth of the budget (HK$13million) went to CGI." Lee Alon of brns.com complains that "[it's] hovering somewhere between the recycle and bargain bins ... how can we possibly gloss over a meager story?" Derek Elley of Variety suggests that the director "conjures up moments of tranquility and visual poetry... Another big bonus is the responsive, John Williams-like score by Japanese composer Joe Hisaishi, which propels the whole movie emotionally and makes the CGI appear better than it often is."



GREGG Rolie

New dates

NEW DATES FOR GREGG Rolie, original member/vocalist of the super-groups Santana and Journey: April 28, Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City; April 29, Clark Expo in Pampanga; and April 30, SM Iloilo.

Tiongco Brothers SHOW TIME

Samahand Plaridel presents the repeat of "Lovesongs at Frontpage," featuring The Tiongco Brothers, on Friday, 9 p.m. at Frontpage Piano Bar on T. M. Kalaw, Manila.

Also performing in the dinner show are London-raised Marri Nallos and Juan Rodrigo.

Call 252-1560 or 733-2978.

Rocksteddy

MTV presents Rocksteddy as Rising Star for this month. Catch "Sessions" on April 9, 11:30 a.m.; April 11, 12 noon and 11 p.m.; April 16, 11:30 a.m.; April 18, 12 noon and 11 p.m.; April 23, 11:30 a.m.; April 25, 12 noon and 11 p.m.; April 30, 11:30a.m. Also "Handpicked" on April 11, 4 p.m.; April 18, 4 p.m.; and April 25, 4 p.m.

ROCKSTEDDY

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Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 R-18
2 ICE AGE 2 PLS. CALL FOR SCREENING TIME GP
3 BANDIDAS 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30
4 BASIC INSTINCT 2 PLS. CALL FOR SCREENING TIME R-18

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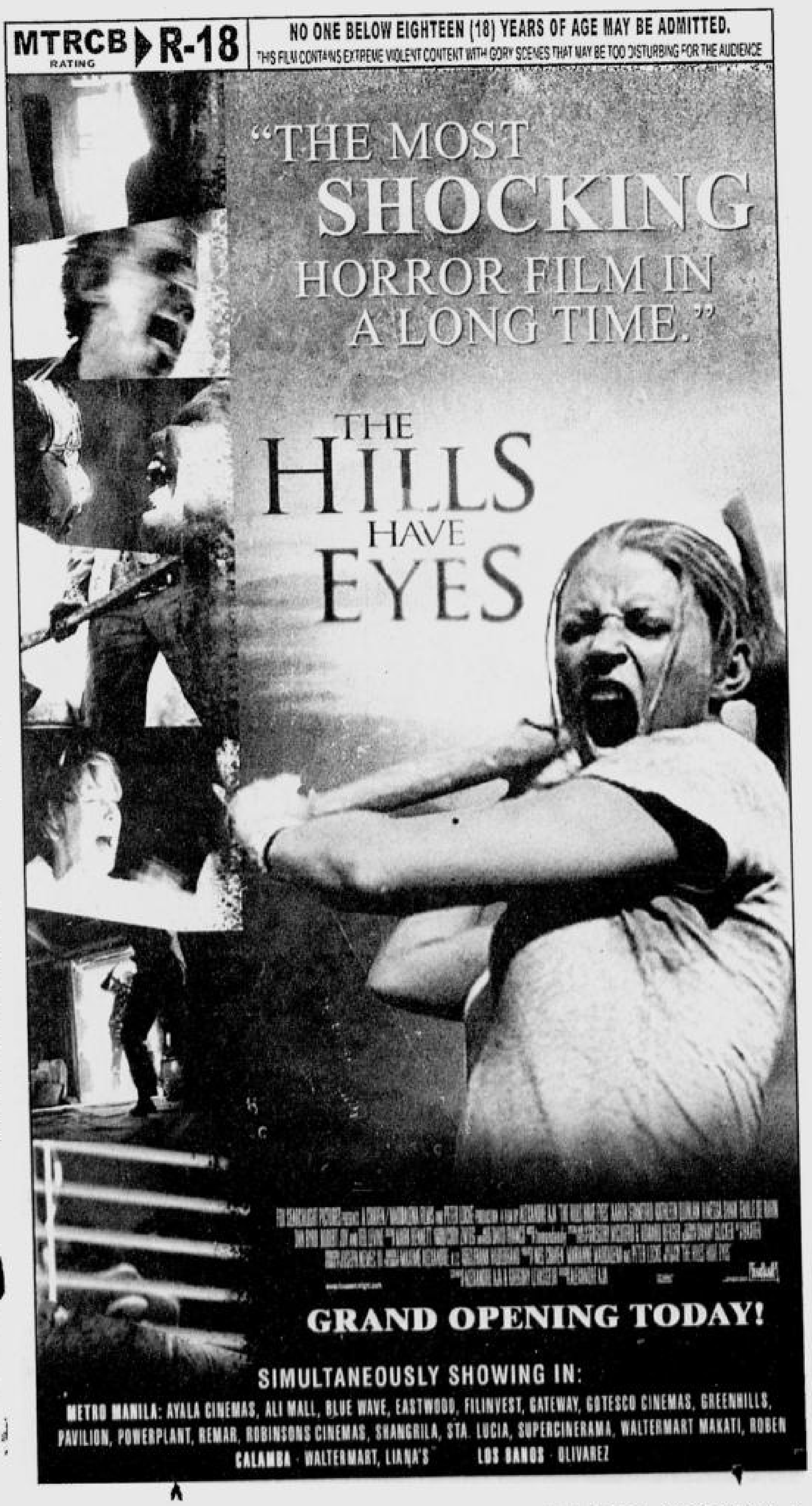
THE HILLS HAVE EYES 12:00 / 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40	GRANDMA'S BOY 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50	CHINESE TALL STORY 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
JUST FRIENDS 6:50 / 9:00 NANNY McPHEE 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40	BANDIDAS 12:00 / 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20	ICE AGE 2 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	ICE AGE 2 2:15 / 4:25 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 6:35 / 9:05
MOMENTS OF LOVE 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	SHE'S THE MAN 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN 7:30 / 9:50	BASIC INSTINCT 2 1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50	ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299

ALIMALL CINEMAS

1 MOMENTS OF LOVE 12:00 R3 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40	2 ICE AGE 2 12:15 R4 / 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35	3 BANDIDAS 12:05 R3 / 1:35 / 3:55 / 6:15 / 8:35
4 GRANDMA'S BOY 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45	5 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 12:55 / 3:15 / 5:35 / 8:05	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

ARANETA COLISEUM
PBA PHILIPPINE CUP
Apr 5, 4:40 RED BULL vs COCA COLA
Wed. 7:35 AIR 21 vs PUREFOODS
SANTANA ROOTS... GREG ROLIE LIVE!
APRIL 28, Friday 8 pm



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GALLERIA 632-9116
1 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN • THX
2 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
3 BANDIDAS
4 GRANDMA'S BOY
5 ICE AGE 2
6 BASIC INSTINCT 2
7 JUST FRIENDS
8 MOMENTS OF LOVE
9 CHINESE TALL STORY
10 SHE'S THE MAN

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12
1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 JUST FRIENDS
ICE AGE 2
4 BASIC INSTINCT 2
5 GRANDMA'S BOY
6 BANDIDAS
7 CHINESE TALL STORY

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199
1 BASIC INSTINCT 2
2 CHINESE TALL STORY
3 GRANDMA'S BOY
4 ICE AGE 2
5 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
6 BANDIDAS
7 JUST FRIENDS
8 MOMENTS OF LOVE

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30
1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 ICE AGE 2
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 BASIC INSTINCT 2
5 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575
1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378
1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 ICE AGE 2
3 GRANDMA'S BOY
4 BANDIDAS

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2 NORTH COUNTRY
3 ICE AGE 2
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
5 ULTRAVIOLET

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870
1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 VENOM
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
5 HOUSE OF FURY

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332
1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 ICE AGE 2
3 NORTH COUNTRY
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
5 SHE'S THE MAN

ANGELES (045) 892-2348
1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188
1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 ICE AGE 2
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270
1 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
2 ICE AGE 2
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 ULTRAVIOLET
5 GLORY ROAD
6 NANNY MCPHEE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463 (034) 441-0459
1 ICE AGE 2
2 SHE'S THE MAN
3 VENOM
4 NORTH COUNTRY
5 SHAGGY DOG

ILOILO (033) 336-8070
1 ICE AGE 2
2 VENOM
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 NORTH COUNTRY
5 HOUSE OF FURY
6 THE DARK

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MOVIE GUIDE

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1 (DOLBY)	ICE AGE 2 GP
2 (DOLBY)	BANDIDAS
3 (DOLBY)	JUST FRIENDS R13
4 (DOLBY)	THE HILLS HAVE EYES R18

PREMIERE

(DOLBY)	BASIC INSTINCT 2 R18

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	ICE AGE-2
2	BASIC INSTINCT-2
3	MOMENTS OF LOVE
4	THE HILL HAVE EYES

starmall EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3	MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	CLOSE FOR RENOVATION
5	BASIC INSTINCT-2

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1	BASIC INSTINCT-2
2	LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
3	VENOM
4	MOMENTS OF LOVE

THEATRES
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan,
Telephone No. (044) 600-3025

1	V FOR VENDETTA
2	MOMENTS OF LOVE
3	ICE AGE-2

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

1	MOMENTS OF LOVE
2	V FOR VENDETTA
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	JUST FRIENDS
2 (SDDS)	VENOM
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE-2
4 GOLD (DTS)	THE HILL HAVE EYES
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	BANDIDAS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	BASIC INSTINCT-2
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	GRAND MA'S BOY
8 (DOLBY STEREO)	MOMENTS OF LOVE
9 (DOLBY STEREO)	V FOR VENDETTA
10 (DOLBY STEREO)	CHINESE TALL STORY

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY)	THE HILL HAVE EYES
2 (DOLBY)	MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 (DOLBY)	ICE AGE-2
4 (DOLBY)	VENOM

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY)	ICE AGE-2
2	BANDIDAS
3	MOMENTS OF LOVE
4	THE HILLS HAVE EYES
5	GRANDMA'S BOY

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MOMENTS OF LOVE
2	NAG AAPOY NA DAGAT
3	AEON FLUX
4	ULTRAVIOLET

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	MOMENTS OF LOVE
2	THE HILLS HAVE EYES
3	CHINESE TALL STORY

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1	ICE AGE-2
2	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	ICE AGE-2
2	ULTRAVIOLET
3 (DTS EX)	MOMENTS OF LOVE
4	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3 (DOLBY)	RESERVED
4 (DTS)	RESERVED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3 (DOLBY)	RESERVED
4 (DTS)	RESERVED

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	MOMENTS OF LOVE
2	16 BLOCKS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 (DOLBY)	ICE AGE 2
3 (DOLBY)	BANDIDAS
4 (DOLBY)	BASIC INSTINCT 2

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ULTRAVIOLET
2 (DTS)	MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 (DOLBY)	ICE AGE-2
4	THE HILLS HAVE EYES

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146

1	MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 (DOLBY)	ULTRAVIOLET
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE-2
4	THE HILLS HAVE EYES

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	BIG MOMMAS HOUSE
2	MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 (DOLBY)	V FOR VENDETTA

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	SHAGGY DOG
2	MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 (DOLBY)	VENOM
4 (DTS)	NORTH COUNTRY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	ICE AGE-2
2	MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 (DOLBY)	VENOM

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)

1	ICE AGE-2
2	MOMENTS OF LOVE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1	16 BLOCKS
2	ULTRAVIOLET

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
2	NAG AAPOY NA DAGAT
3	HIYAS SA PARAISO NG KASALANAN
4 (DTS)	DEVILS IN THE DEEP

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2	NAG AAPOY NA DAGAT
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE-2
4	MOMENTS OF LOVE
5	ULTRAVIOLET

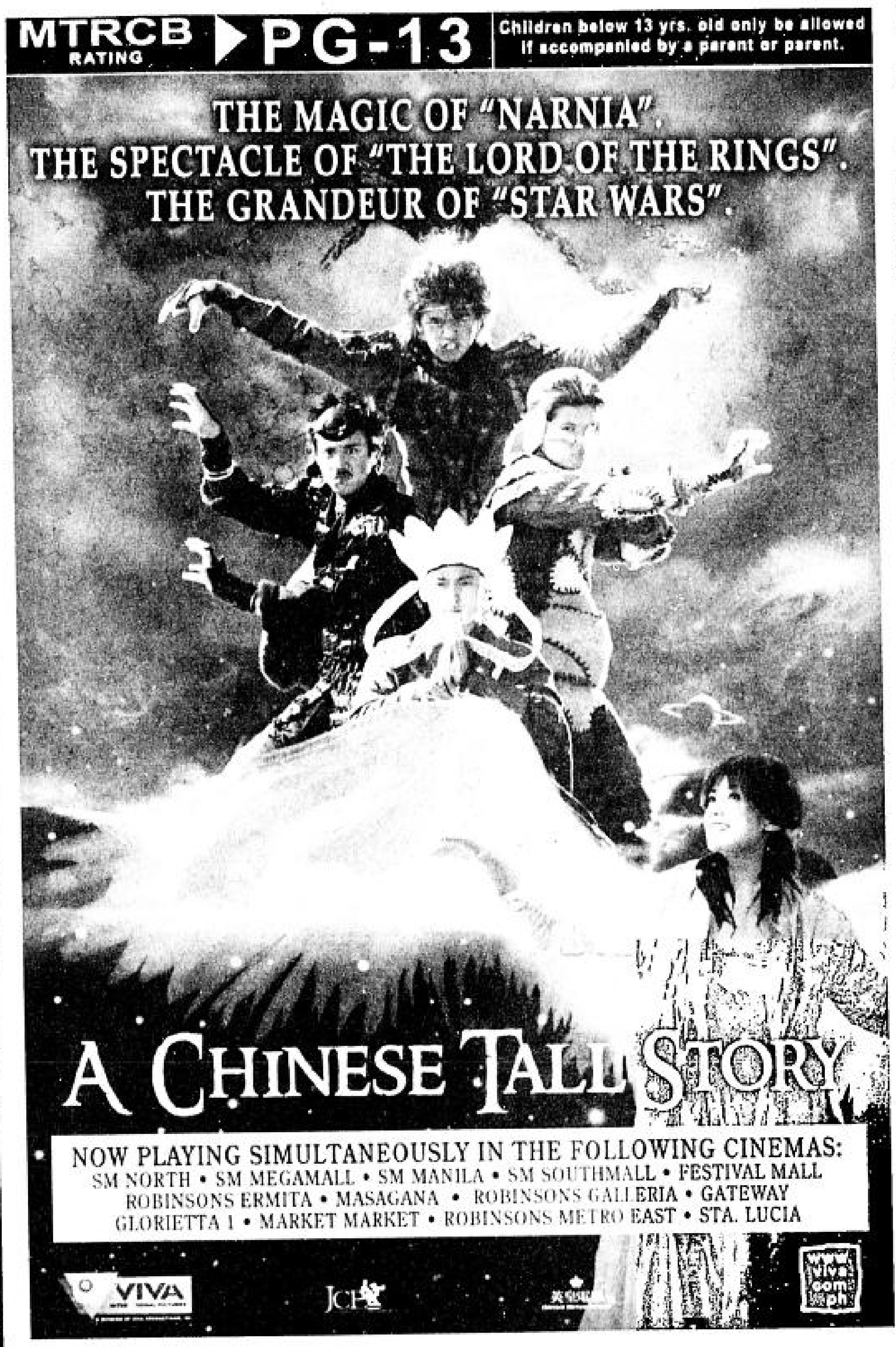
Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	V FOR VENDETTA
2	ICE AGE-2
3	VENOM
4	MOMENTS OF LOVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	ULTRAVIOLET
2	NAG AAPOY NA DAGAT

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE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DAVID SPADE star of SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE
ROB SCHNEIDER star of DEUCE BIGALOW
From Producer ADAM SANDLER
GRANDMA'S BOY

ACTION movies next?

'Maxi' grateful to...

From page A2-1

the good news was relayed to him by his mother Arlene Belle Lopez, who had learned it via a text message from Solito.

"We made the movie for a contest a year ago and until now, it is still winning awards," Lopez gushed.

He credited Cruz with a large part of his own triumph.

Lopez recounted: "He told me when I should do more, or less, in each scene. He taught me how to increase the volume of my voice and how to walk like a gay boy."

Cruz, for his part, insisted that Lopez was an apt student.

"I am very pleased that he won," Cruz said. "He was very open to instructions, and absorbed tips quickly."

Since Lopez is straight and comes from a Born Again Christian family, Cruz noted, the boy was "at first resistant" about playing the flamboyant Maxi.

> Nathan was a good student and 'very open' to directions, Soliman recalls

It was to Lopez's credit that he eventually overcame this, said Cruz, who used to teach children's theater in St. Scholastica's and Assumption.

"I told him that an actor's job involves the quest for truth. It was my task to open up his mind."

Exactly how did he achieve this?

"I told him that Maximo symbolized femininity, sensitivity and the nurturing maternal instinct in a family of tough guys. Maximo was a balancing, stabilizing force in his father and brother's lives."

Lopez, who guested on the ABS-CBN soap opera "Mga Anghel na Walang Langit," admitted that his fear of being typecast in gay roles is the primary reason behind his present dream of making action movies.

He quipped, "Just like Neo, Keanu Reeves in 'The Matrix.'"

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

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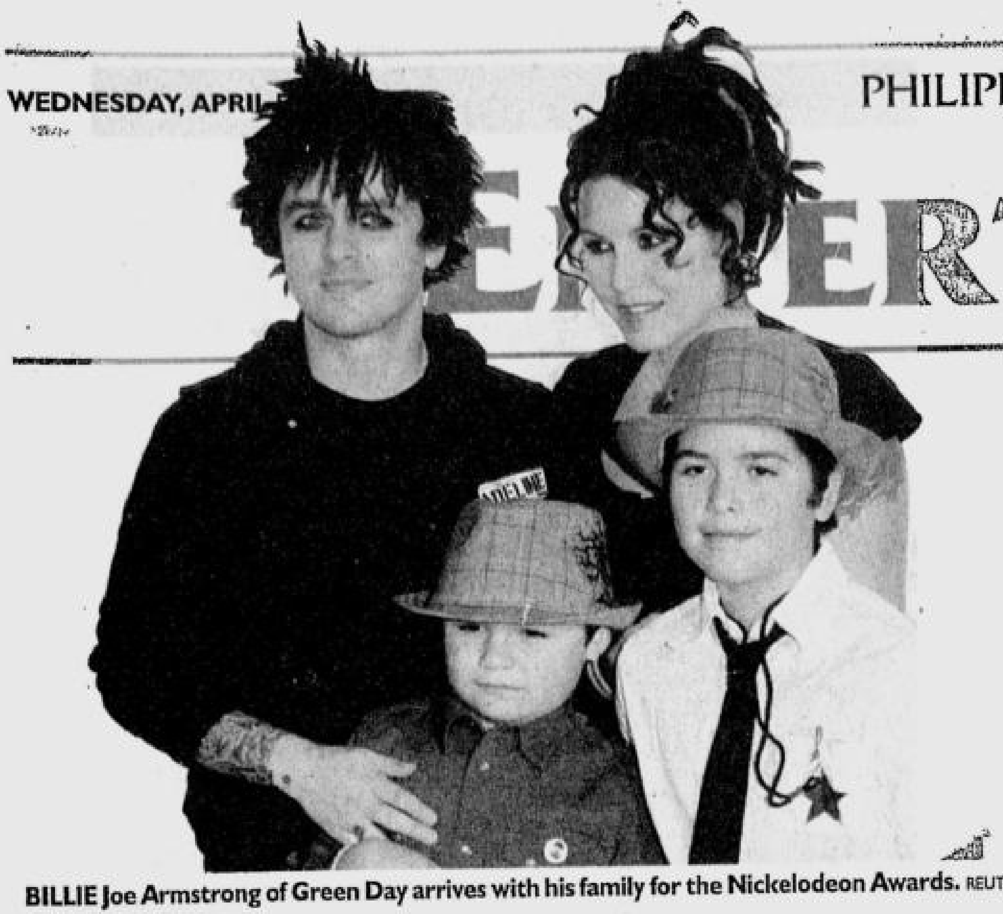

BILLIE Joe Armstrong of Green Day arrives with his family for the Nickelodeon Awards. REUTERS

Kids choose Chris Rock & Green Day

ROBIN Williams all slimed up. AFP

LOS ANGELES—THOUsands cheered, hundreds were slimed and a lucky dozen or so claimed trophies at the weekend's raucous 19th annual Nickelodeon's Kids Choice Awards.

The cable channel's awards show, in which the awards are really secondary, got off to a spirited start when host Jack Black charged onto the stage in a white Elvis jumpsuit and belted out Elton John's "Saturday Night's Alright For Fighting."

"Tonight is your night to rage against the machine," Black said to some 10,000 cheering young fans. They would responded with earsplitting shrieks every time a celebrity was mentioned during the 90-minute show.

Wielding a hose, Black proceeded to spray the audience with green goo.

The big winners were Green Day, which claimed two orange blimp trophies.

Chris Rock claimed the "Wannabe Award" as the celebri-

KIDS/ A3-4

H'wood hunting for films

(This is a condensed version of a story that will appear in today's New York Times.)

LOS ANGELES—With movie theater ticket sales in the United States down again in 2005, more Hollywood studios are looking to the emerging markets for local-language films.

Last year, the Walt Disney Co. entered into a joint venture to make its first Chinese-language film, which will be released there later this year. In January, Twentieth Century Fox, a unit of the News Corp., scored high in Brazil with the Portuguese-language comedy "If I Were You."

Sony Pictures Entertainment, along with Warner Brothers Entertainment, is a leader in local-language production and is making films in India, Russia and Mexico in 2006. And recently, Tom Freston, chief executive of Viacom, which owns Paramount Pictures, said he, too, was eager to make movies in India.

Decrease

One reason the studios are looking overseas is that movie-going abroad is growing faster than in the United States. In 2005, the worldwide box office tallied $23.24 billion, a decrease of 7.9 percent from 2004. The American box office represented $8.99 billion, or 39 percent, of that total.

What studio executives are hoping to find is that rare gem that crosses local borders and becomes a hit in the United States or, better yet, worldwide.

NY Times News Service

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Read it every Sunday
with the
Philippine Daily Inquirer.
JOB Market

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 ICE AGE 2
MTRCB GP
1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00 LMF
2 BANDIDAS
(Subject to MTRCB Rating)
3 JUST FRIENDS
MTRCB: R-13
4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
MTRCB R-18
12:00, 2:30, 5:30, 7:30, 10:00
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ARE YOU REALLY WHO YOU ARE?

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- For P450 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited:
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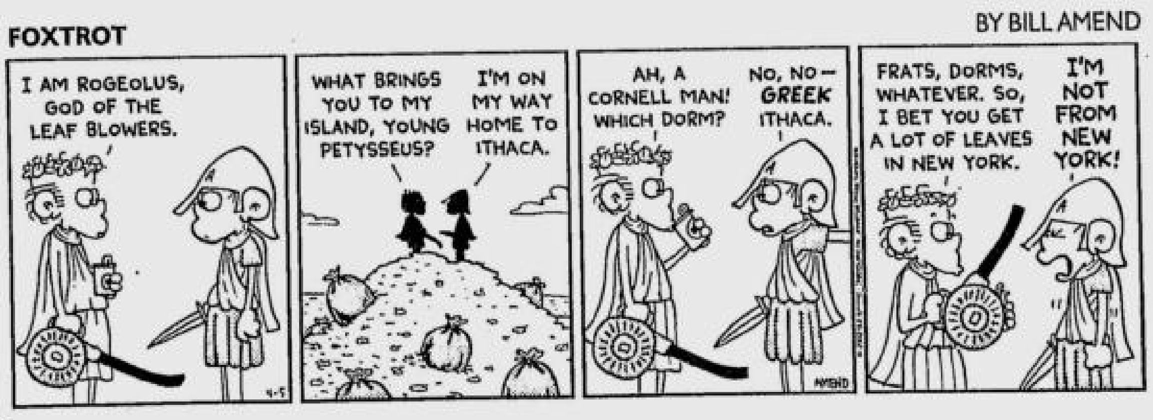
See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1969, Series of 2006.

ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

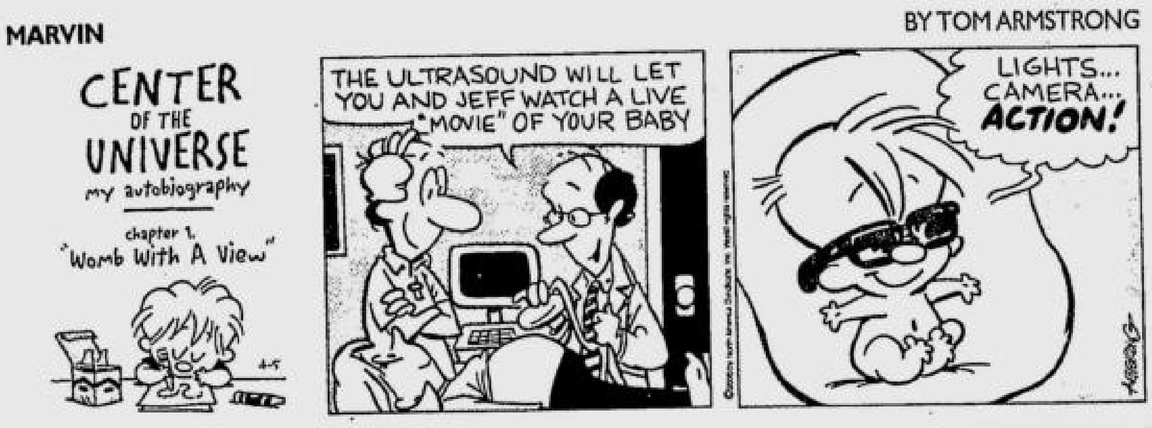
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I AM ROGEOLUS, GOD OF THE LEAF BLOWERS.
WHAT BRINGS YOU TO MY ISLAND, YOUNG PETYSSEUS?
I'M ON MY WAY HOME TO ITHACA.
AH, A CORNELL MAN! WHICH DORM?
NO, NO— GREEK ITHACA.
FRATS, DORMS, WHATEVER. SO, I BET YOU GET A LOT OF LEAVES IN NEW YORK.
I'M NOT FROM NEW YORK!
4-5
AMEND

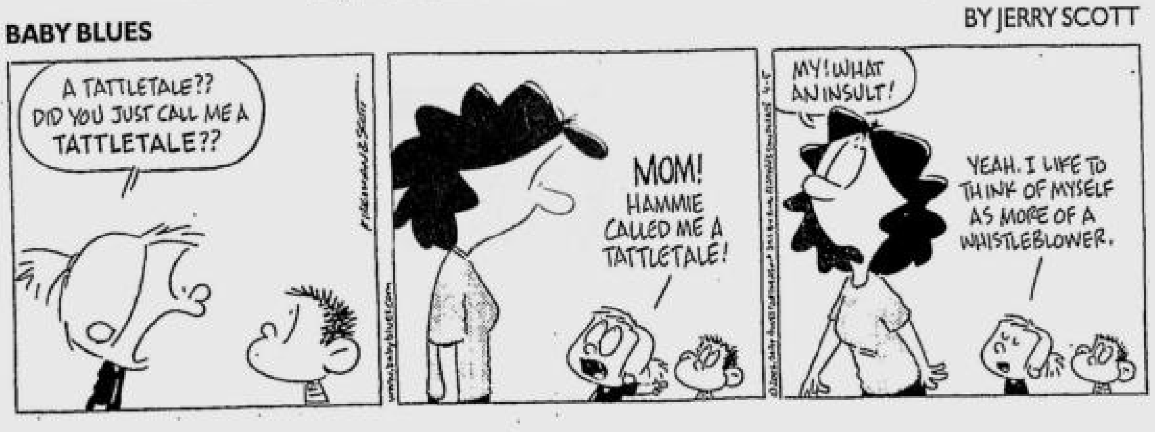
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE
my autobiography
chapter 1.
"Womb With A View"
4-5
THE ULTRASOUND WILL LET YOU AND JEFF WATCH A LIVE "MOVIE" OF YOUR BABY
LIGHTS... CAMERA... ACTION!

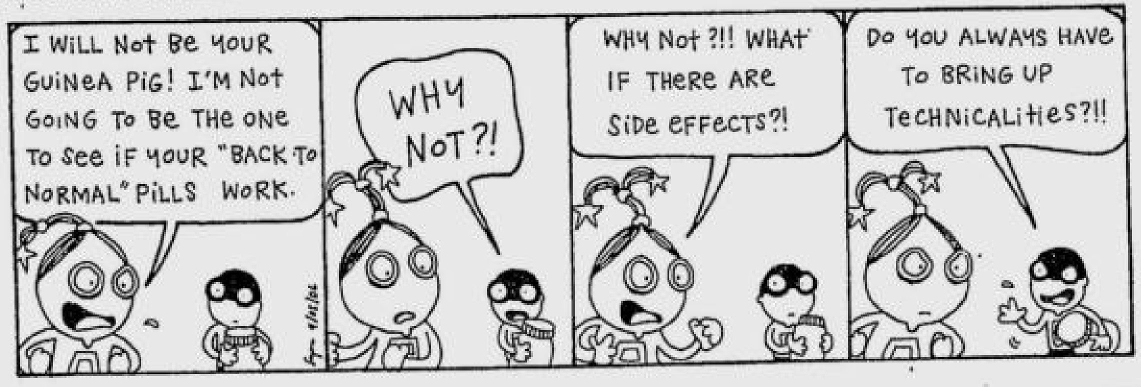
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


A TATTLETALE?? DID YOU JUST CALL ME A TATTLETALE??
MOM! HAMMIE CALLED ME A TATTLETALE!
MY! WHAT AN INSULT!
YEAH. I LIKE TO THINK OF MYSELF AS MORE OF A WHISTLEBLOWER.
4-5

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I WILL NOT BE YOUR GUINEA PIG! I'M NOT GOING TO BE THE ONE TO SEE IF YOUR "BACK TO NORMAL" PILLS WORK.
WHY NOT?!
WHY NOT?!! WHAT IF THERE ARE SIDE EFFECTS?!
DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BRING UP TECHNICALITIES?!!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're conscientious, committed and very thorough. You're also hardworking. These stoic qualities earn you the respect of others. Even though you appear to be bigger than life, in truth, you're modest. Your confidence and ability to concentrate bring you success. This year could be one of the best years of your life!
Birthdate of: Agnetha Faltskog, singer; Gregory Peck, actor; Spencer Tracy actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Plans for vacations and educational matters related to children can go forward with more confidence. Now you are sure about what you want to do.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Doubts you had about where you're living now diminish. You're more certain about where you want to put down roots. (You need this anchor.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Lately, you have been worried or bothered with self-doubt. Now these feelings will greatly diminish. You'll have a stronger sense of direction about what you want to do.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): For some-time you've been dead in the water with matters pertaining to earnings, your job and even your self-image. Now that is a thing of the past; you know what you want to do.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): For some time now, you felt almost paralyzed. You weren't sure when or if you should act. This is all in the past now. You're ready to move forward with confidence.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your self-confidence has been eroded by feelings of self-doubt and insecurity. You weren't sure where you were going. Now it is much clearer. You're ready to give up what you no longer need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's not easy to shift your emphasis from your own individual success to working with groups. This is what you have to do now. (And you see this.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have been hesitant to act in terms of your career path and life direction. Now, however, you know the direction you want to go. This is a relief!

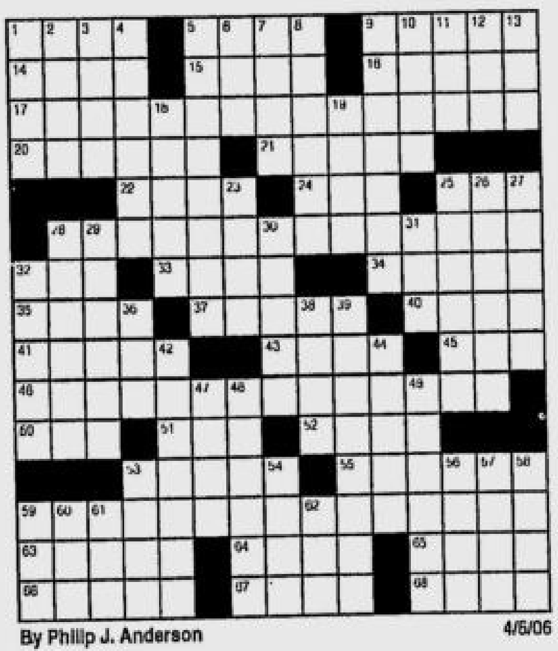
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Delayed plans regarding publishing, returning to school or travel now get the green light. This is encouraging. You can move with confidence in the direction that will broaden your horizons.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): It's empowering to realize that you can go forward whether or not you have the support that was recently withheld from you. You can stand on your own. You can act on your own.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Starting today, you want to move forward to achieve greater things for yourself. Your focus is on your external world now. You're going places!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): For too long, everything was almost at a standstill at work. This was exasperating! Now things are moving forward, and you feel better!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

4/6/06

ACROSS
1 Explorer Tasman
5 Stage backdrops
9 January in Oaxaca
14 Arias for one
15 Criminal, to a cop
16 Sub finder
17 Banks
20 King of the Visigoths
21 Tourney type
22 Old wives
24 Small viper
25 Appropriate
28 Banks
32 Roman household god
33 Munro in print
34 Colonel's insignia
35 Heraldic border
37 Artifact
40 North Carolina school
41 Long, thin ridge
43 Felipe or Moises of baseball
45 UFO personnel
46 Banks
50 Observe
51 Inmate, briefly
52 Blue dye
53 Select few
55 Son of Daedalus
59 Banks
63 Apothecary weights
64 Pugilist's garb
65 Give off
66 Concur
67 Bro's bros
68 Impertinence

DOWN
1 Movie pooch
2 Heat to vaporization
3 Raines of old films
4 Metric units
5 Keyboard feature
6 Hallow ending?
7 Golf hazard
8 Staircase type
9 One on the lam
10 Par for the course
11 Doe in "Bambi"
12 Brit. flyboys
13 Table scrap
18 Boxcars in Vegas
19 Patriot Betsy
23 For Pete's __!
25 Fisherman
26 Cockpit honchos
27 Time between 12 and 20
28 "Peter Pan" author
29 Actress Dahl
30 Purple hue
31 "Norma __"
32 Bums around
36 Airport info
38 Ends of small intestines
39 Cooperates by tacit consent
42 Fence in
44 City on the Mohawk
47 Hairdo
48 Goes in
49 Makes joyous
53 Salinger title girl
54 "The Time Machine" people
56 Capital of Italia
57 "Battle Cry" writer
58 Fast jets, for short
59 Vitamin letters
60 OAS word
61 Simple card game
62 Decline time

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

I	F	S	■	S	E	S	A	M	E	■	A	C	T	S
C	E	O	■	P	A	T	T	E	R	■	C	H	A	T
U	S	A	■	A	T	A	R	I	S	■	C	O	C	A
■	S	P	I	R	I	T	I	N	T	H	E	S	K	Y
R	E	D	O	■	N	S	A	■	■	A	D	E	L	E
E	D	I	N	A	■	■	■	H	A	V	E	N	E	D
B	U	S	I	N	■	J	E	T	T	A	■	■	■	■
■	P	H	A	N	T	O	M	M	E	N	A	C	E	■
■	■	■	■	U	H	A	U	L	■	A	L	I	V	E
M	A	R	I	L	Y	N	■	■	■	S	A	L	I	C
A	T	O	N	E	■	■	S	T	E	■	M	I	L	O
G	H	O	S	T	O	F	T	O	M	J	O	A	D	■
P	E	S	O	■	T	O	O	T	O	O	■	T	O	P
I	N	T	L	■	I	N	N	A	T	E	■	F	E	L
E	A	S	E	■	S	T	E	L	E	S	■	D	R	Y

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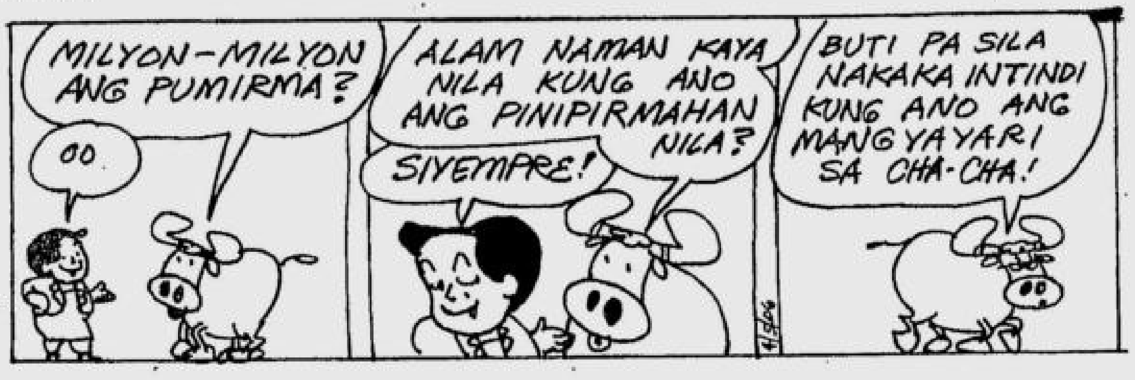
4/5/06

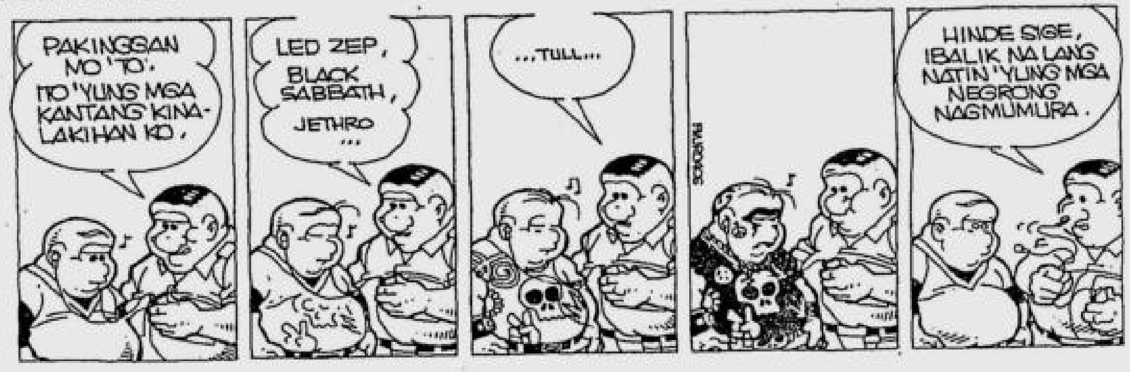
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MILYON-MILYON ANG PUMIRMA?
OO
ALAM NAMAN KAYA NILA KUNG ANO ANG PINIPIRMAHAN NILA?
SIYEMPRE!
BUTI PA SILA NAKAKA INTINDI KUNG ANO ANG MANGYAYARI SA CHA-CHA!
4/5/06

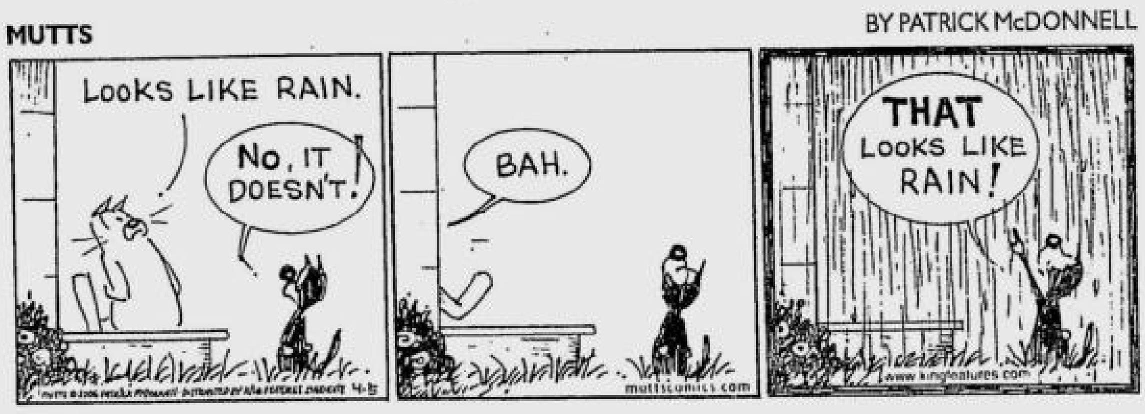
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAKINGGAN MO 'TO. ITO 'YUNG MGA KANTANG KINALAKIHAN KO.
LED ZEP, BLACK SABBATH, JETHRO ...
...TULL...
HINDE SIGE, IBALIK NA LANG NATIN 'YUNG MGA NEGRONG NAGMUMURA.

MUTTS

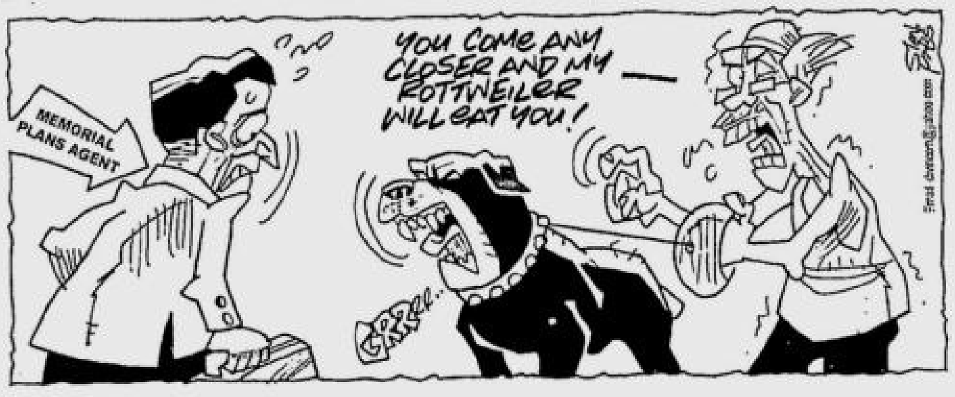
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LOOKS LIKE RAIN.
NO, IT DOESN'T!
BAH.
THAT LOOKS LIKE RAIN!
4-5
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com

DIVINE COMEDY

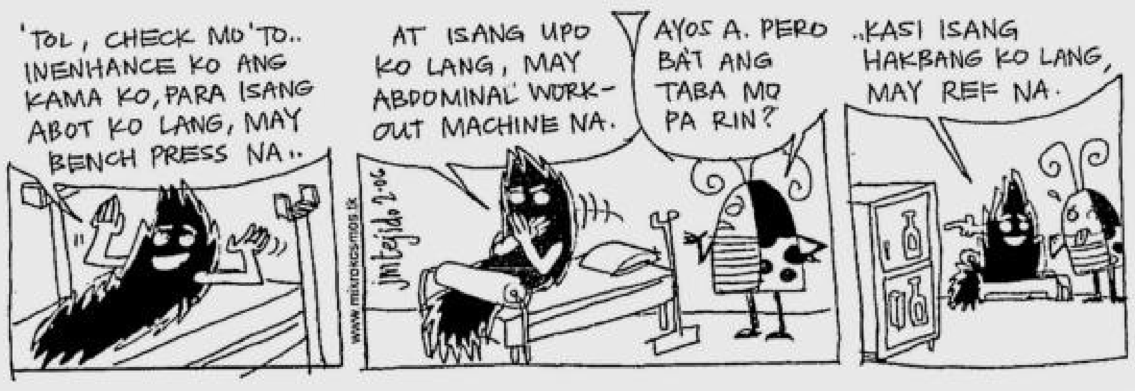
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

ALAM MONG TUMATANDA KA NA KUNG
....
NASA "STATE OF DENIAL" KA NA


MEMORIAL PLANS AGENT
YOU COME ANY CLOSER AND MY ROTTWEILER WILL EAT YOU!
GRRR...

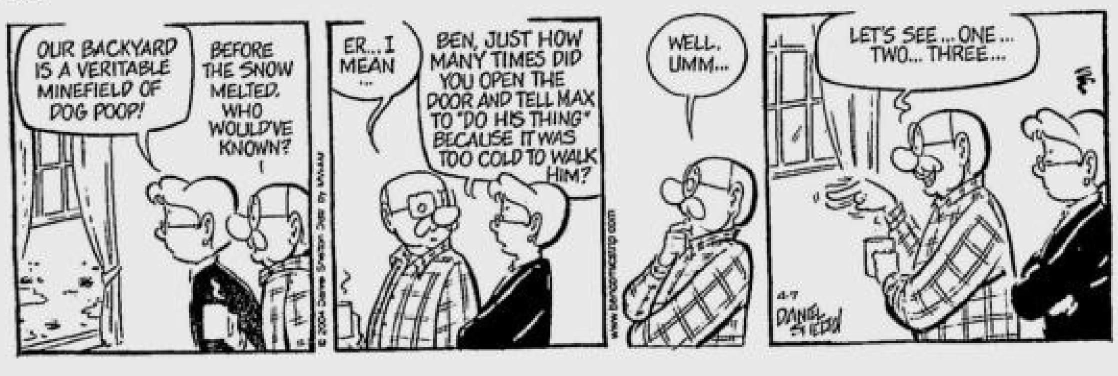
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


'TOL, CHECK MO 'TO.. INENHANCE KO ANG KAMA KO, PARA ISANG ABOT KO LANG, MAY BENCH PRESS NA..
AT ISANG UPO KO LANG, MAY ABDOMINAL WORK-OUT MACHINE NA.
AYOS A. PERO BAT ANG TABA MO PA RIN?
..KASI ISANG HAKBANG KO LANG, MAY REF NA.
jmtejido 2-06
www.mikrokosmos.tk

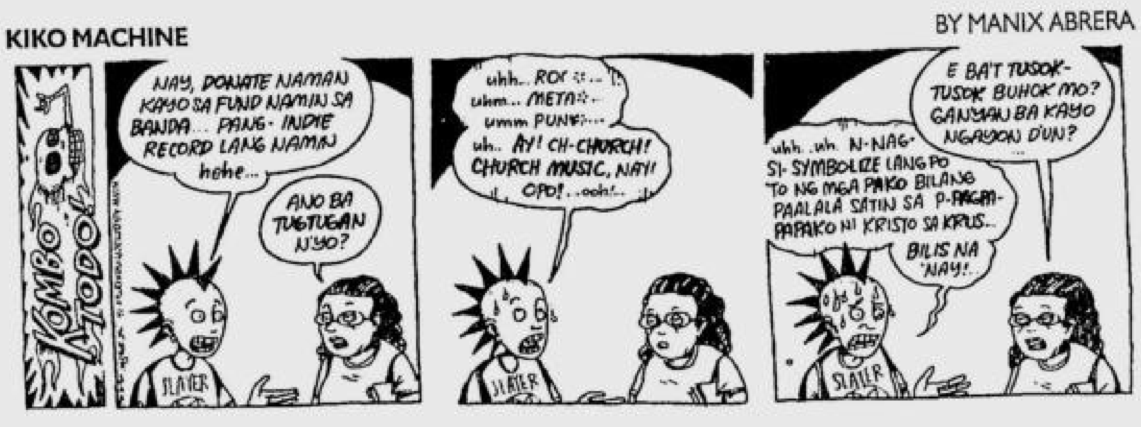
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OUR BACKYARD IS A VERITABLE MINEFIELD OF DOG POOP!
BEFORE THE SNOW MELTED, WHO WOULD'VE KNOWN?
ER... I MEAN ...
BEN, JUST HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU OPEN THE DOOR AND TELL MAX TO "DO HIS THING" BECAUSE IT WAS TOO COLD TO WALK HIM?
WELL. UMM...
LET'S SEE ... ONE ... TWO... THREE...
4-7
DANIEL SHELTON

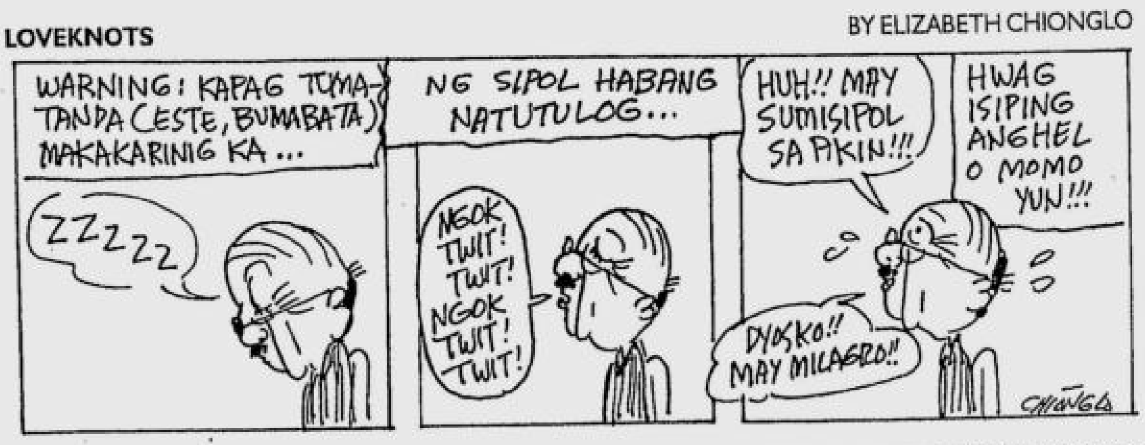
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KOMBO TODO!
NAY, DONATE NAMAN KAYO SA FUND NAMIN SA BANDA... PANG-INDIE RECORD LANG NAMIN hehe...
ANO BA TUGTUGAN N'YO?
uhh.. ROC... uhm.. META... umm PUNK... uh.. AY! CH-CHURCH! CHURCH MUSIC, NAY! OPO!...ooh!..
E BA'T TUSOK-TUSOK BUHOK MO? GANYAN BA KAYO NGAYON D'UN?
uhh..uh.. N-NAG-SI-SYMBOLIZE LANG PO 'TO NG MGA PAKO BILANG PAALALA SATIN SA P-PAGPA-PAPAKO NI KRISTO SA KRUS..
BILIS NA 'NAY!..
SLAYER

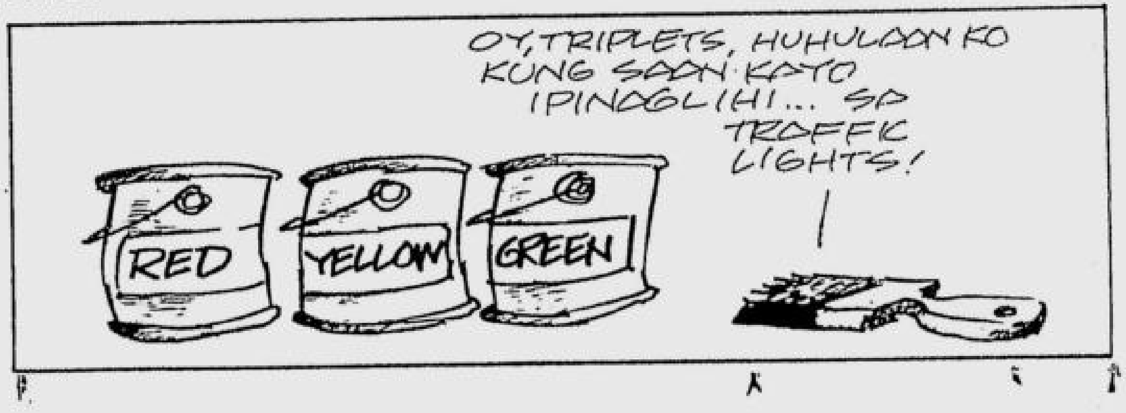
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


WARNING: KAPAG TUMATANDA (ESTE, BUMABATA) MAKAKARINIG KA ...
ZZZZZ
NG SIPOL HABANG NATUTULOG...
NGOK TWIT! TWIT! NGOK TWIT! TWIT!
HUH!! MAY SUMISIPOL SA PIKIN!!!
HWAG ISIPING ANGHEL O MOMO YUN!!!
DYOSKO!! MAY MILAGRO!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, TRIPLETS, HUHULAAN KO KUNG SAAN KAYO IPINAGLIHI... SA TRAFFIC LIGHTS!
RED
YELLOW
GREEN

ENTERTAINMENT

ROUNDUP

$70.5-M snowball

LOS ANGELES—"Ice Age: The Meltdown" heated up the box office with a mammoth $70.5 million, while audiences gave the cold shoulder to Sharon Stone, whose "Basic Instinct 2" debuted with a paltry $3.2 million. Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters:

1) "Ice Age: The Meltdown," $70.5M; 2) "Inside Man," $15.7M; 3) "ATL," $12.5M: 4) "Failure to Launch," $6.6M; 5) "V for Vendetta," $6.5M; 6) "Stay Alive," $4.58M; 7) "She's the Man," $4.57M; 8) "Slither," $3.7M; 9) "The Shaggy Dog," $3.5M; 10 [tie]) "Basic Instinct 2" and "Larry the Cable Guy: Health Inspector," $3.2M. *AP*

Smokin' Crowe

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—Actor Russell Crowe is under a cloud in his country of birth for allegedly smoking while singing at clubs with his new band despite New Zealand's ban on cigarettes in public venues.

Oscar-winning Crowe, 41, allegedly lit up in two clubs and a concert hall during his three-concert tour of the country with his new folk-rock band The Ordinary Fear of God.

The country's Smoke-Free Environments Amendment Act bans smoking in bars, restaurants and casinos and all other indoor public venues.

Last year, a New York court gave Crowe a conditional discharge after he pleaded guilty to throwing a phone at a hotel receptionist. *AP*

Pitt stop

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic—Brad Pitt visited the Dominican Republic this week to scout real estate development locations.

The actor took a helicopter to the Samana peninsula, on the island's north coast, and the eastern towns of Miches and Punta Cana to look into real estate projects with art dealer and promoter George Nader.

It was not clear what kind of project Pitt was exploring.

He was photographed Friday afternoon following a meeting with German architects Lars Kruckeberg and Wolfram Putz at a hotel in the capital's colonial district. The architects had previously refurbished Pitt and girlfriend Angelina Jolie's house in Los Angeles.

The couple are expecting their first child later this year. *AP*

'Genius' crimes and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: ARE YOU AND (NAME OF ACTRESS) now romantically involved?

Guest: Not yet. I admit, *lumalabas kami—pero kasama ng family, pati* church.

(That's a huge entourage!)

***

Host: What's different about this new movie of yours?

Guest: For one thing, *'yung twist—kailangang panoorin niyo* from beginning to end!

(That's a long twist!)

***

Host: What can you say about (name of performer's) recent victory abroad?

Guest: Well, humbly speaking, I hope it will be a sort of honor to the country.

(A sort of honor? What's that?)

***

Host: Every week, you visit a different neighborhood to give prizes to some lucky residents. Do you want to plug this?

Guest: Yes, to the viewers, please watch out for our visit to your own community—*baka kayo na ang susunod naming bitayin!*

(Baka "bisitahin" ang ibig mong sabihin!)

***

Host: What does your group propose?

Guest: We want the death penalty to be retained, even if for genius crimes only.

(No comment!)

***

Host: You were at the scene of the accident—describe it for us.

Guest: Well, it was full of people—*maraming* policemen with, *ano 'yon?*, feather duster?

(What were they doing, keeping the crime scene *clean?*)

***

Host: Tell us about your new TV show.

Guest: It's very inspiring, it makes you become feel good!

(Ah, so...)

***

Host: Whom would you like to address in your group's campaign?

Guest: Parents, especially mothers. They should be concerned about their kids' welfare, especially if they have children!

(Uh, parents usually have children, so what are you talking about?)

***

Host: How else will your group help the viewing public?

Guest: We will serve as an information center. If you have doubts about anything, just call us, *at ibibigay namin ang tanong sa lahat ng inyong mga katanungan!*

(Thanks for the—help?!)

Feedback

CONTINUATION of Ms Edy G. Reyes' observations and/or questions about the TV scene: "**Commercials:** With regret, I must say that our top-rating channels' commercial load feels even longer than the program material. Consequently, for shrewd viewers, the long commercial breaks are when we change channels and calculate the time when they can switch back to the commercial-laden show they're watching.

"**Endorsers:** Some endorsers lack the credibility to endorse products or services, because they don't really use them: For them, what matters is the huge sum they get for their endorsement. Well, viewers can sense if they actually patronize what they're endorsing. So, the best recourse for endorsers is to be honest-to-goodness users of the product, for *delicadeza*.

Newscasters. Why so some newscasters have the habit of translating English words into Spanish? Spanglish? If Spanish-speaking viewers hear them, It's most embarrassing. If newscasters prefer to speak in 'Spanglish,' they should do some research first, rather than adding insult to injury."

(To be concluded.)

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GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES	2 BASIC INSTINCT 2					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX BANDIDAS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN GUARANTEED SEATS	3 RENT GUARANTEED SEATS	4 JUST FRIENDS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE HILLS HAVE EYES GUARANTEED SEATS		
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M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	2 MOMENTS OF LOVE	3 CHINESE TALL STORY	4 BANDIDAS	5 THE HILLS HAVE EYES		

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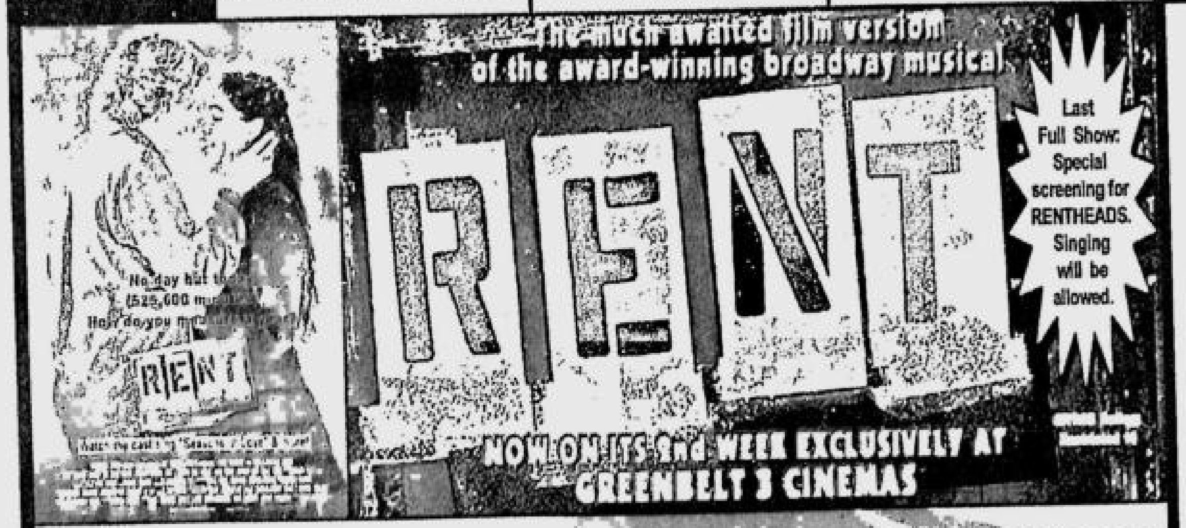

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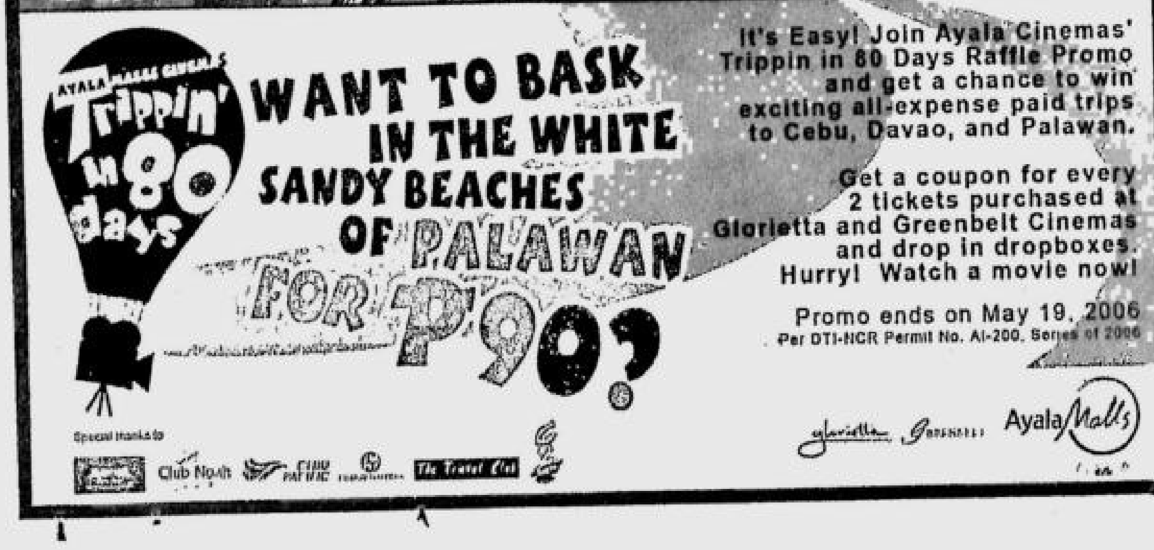

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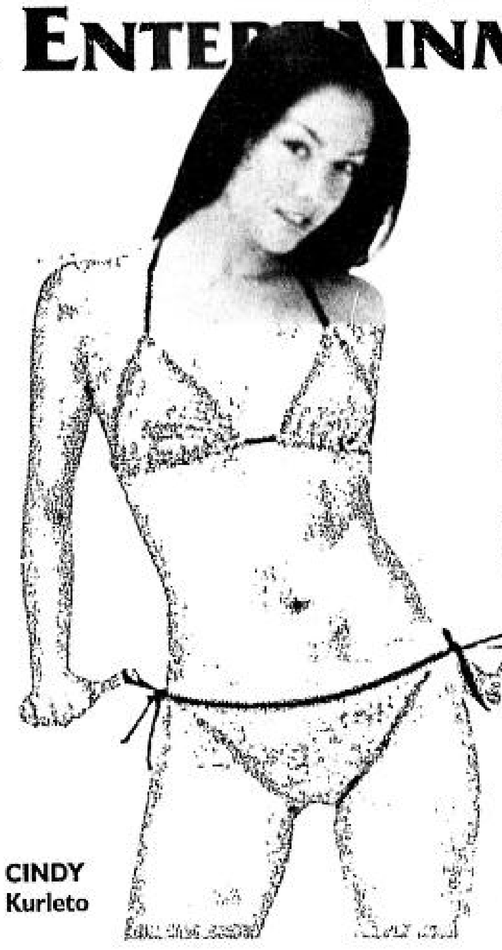
RUSHES

Happy for Heart


CINDY Kurleto

I'M HAPPY FOR THEM," SEXY Cindy Kurleto said when asked about ex-boyfriend Jericho Rosales and his new squeeze, Heart Evangelista.

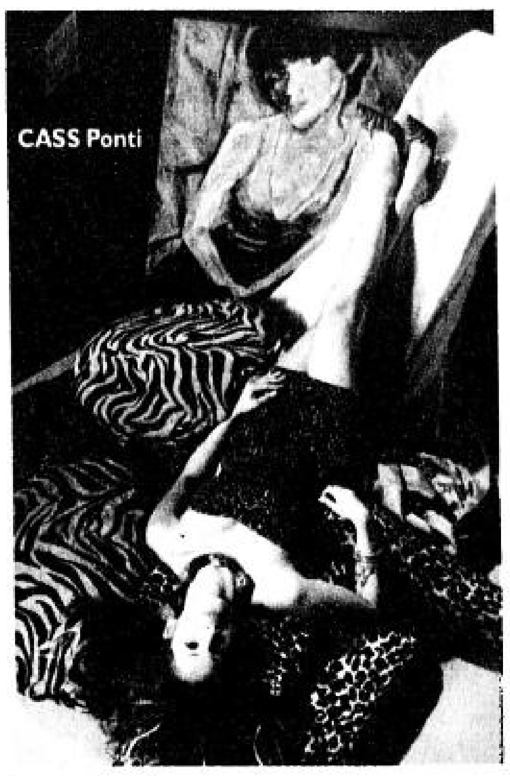
With a body like hers, Cindy can say "I'm happy," period, any old time.

Cindy is one of the event hosts for the MTV Summer Break with Coca Cola—the local version of MTV Spring Break grind parties in Mexico—set in Boracay from April 20 to 22.

Cindy's co-hosts are fellow MTV VJs KC Montero, Marc Abaya and Mariel Rodriguez. The events include relay races, bikini-wrestling matches, dance parties, yoga sessions, beach volleyball, bikini body contests and concerts featuring 6cyclemind, Hale, Imago and Sugarfree.

Guilty pleasures

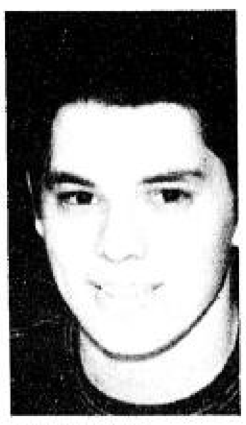
CASSANDRA "Cass" Ponti, from the first "Pinoy Big Brother," is on the cover of Manual magazine with Vhong Navarro. "Guilty pleasures" is how Cass' photographs on the inside pages are described. This (right) is just one of them.


CASS Ponti

Twin treats

THE GUTIERREZ twins Richard and Raymond host Sony Ericsson's "Easy Fashion" show tonight at 6 at the Glorietta Activity Center. Their mom, Annabelle, is not participating.

RICHARD


RAYMOND

KELLY Clarkson GETTY

Kelly at MTV Awards

KELLY Clarkson and Chinese pop/hip-hop superstar Wang Leehom will host the fifth annual MTV Asia Awards in Bangkok on May 6. Among the most awaited participants is nominee Simon Webbe from the UK. Bamboo, Hale, Kitchie Nadal, Orange & Lemons and Rivermaya are vying for Favorite Artist (Philippines).

Kids choose . . .

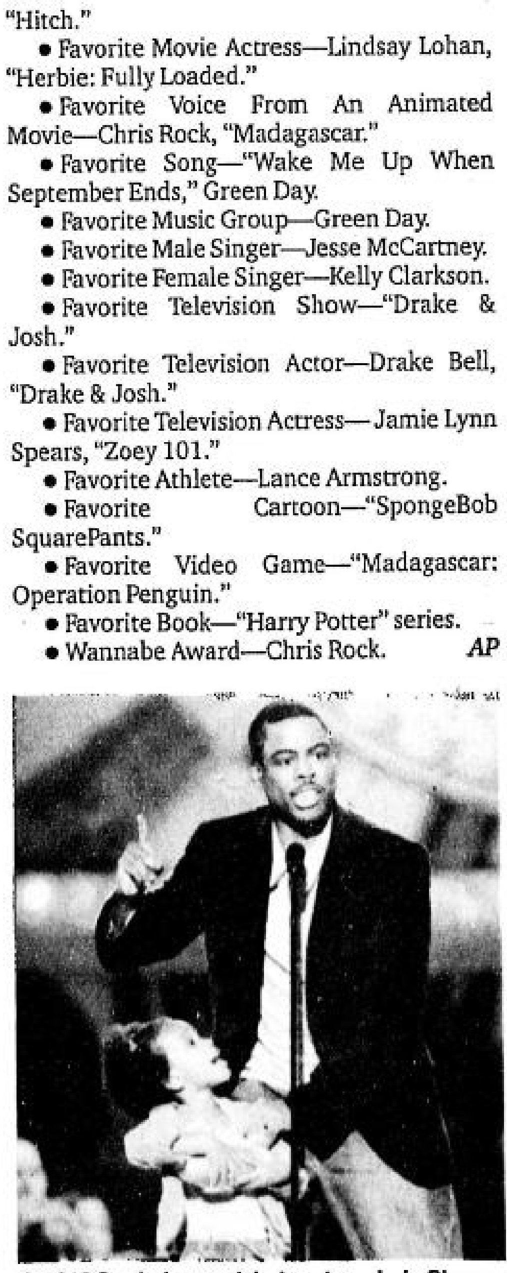
From page A2-1

ty kids most want to be like. Past winners have included Will Smith and Queen Latifah. "They're working their way down," Rock said.

Winners were chosen by fans who voted online.

The complete list:

- Favorite Movie—"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."
- Favorite Animated Movie—"Madagascar."
- Favorite Movie Actor—Will Smith, "Hitch."
- Favorite Movie Actress—Lindsay Lohan, "Herbie: Fully Loaded."
- Favorite Voice From An Animated Movie—Chris Rock, "Madagascar."
- Favorite Song—"Wake Me Up When September Ends," Green Day.
- Favorite Music Group—Green Day.
- Favorite Male Singer—Jesse McCartney.
- Favorite Female Singer—Kelly Clarkson.
- Favorite Television Show—"Drake & Josh."
- Favorite Television Actor—Drake Bell, "Drake & Josh."
- Favorite Television Actress— Jamie Lynn Spears, "Zoey 101."
- Favorite Athlete—Lance Armstrong.
- Favorite Cartoon—"SpongeBob SquarePants."
- Favorite Video Game—"Madagascar: Operation Penguin."
- Favorite Book—"Harry Potter" series.
- Wannabe Award—Chris Rock. *AP*


CHRIS Rock, here with daughter Lola Simon, accepts his award: "They're working their way down." AP

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Peso rallies on strong OFW remittances

Hits intra-day high of 50.95 to $1, closes at 51.45

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY RALlied back to the 50 level before closing at 51.45 against the dollar on strong overseas Filipino workers remittances ahead of the coming school year in June as well as rosier prospects about the government's fiscal position.

News about the Philippine government's plan to buy back the Brady bonds—similar to the strategy adopted by Latin American countries like Mexico, Brazil and Colombia—also boosted confidence in the government's fiscal position.

The local currency opened at 51.03 and breached the 51:$1 barrier to hit an intra-day high of 50.95 before closing near the intra-day low of 51.05 against the greenback. Volume traded at the Philippine Dealing System amounted to $626.5 million.

"The offshore market is bullish on the Philippines. They're even more bullish

PESO/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Mystery buyer, Equitable terms /B3

RP reduced public sector deficit to P106B in '05 /B8

₱1.1T needed for infra projects

THE COUNTRY NEEDS P1.1 TRILLION ($21.25 billion) in fresh investments starting this year to 2010 to unclog infrastructure bottlenecks, the National Economic and Development Authority said.

Documents presented by Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri to the global donor community during the recent Philippine Development Forum estimated this cost of investments needed to shore up the country's vital transportation, power, water, communications and social infrastructure in the next five years.

Neri identified which sectors and geographical areas should be prioritized to attain the country's medium-term development plan and Malacañang's 10-point agenda. He likewise listed the possible sources of financing, including the extent of government intervention.

He said the thrust was to encourage the private sector to undertake projects "with positive financial and economic returns" while the government would focus on "essential projects with high economic returns despite poor financial viability."

But to maintain fiscal discipline, the government plans to focus on projects that will not burden it with contingent liabilities and encourage participation from local government units whenever feasible.

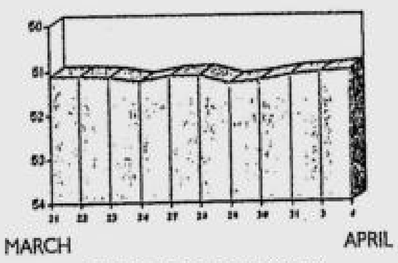
The total investments needed, equivalent to about 2.87-3.14 percent of gross domestic product, included vital projects inside and outside the medium-term plan amounting to P540.21 billion and P548.47 billion, respectively.

Of the total amount required for infrastructure spending over the five-year period, the national government was expected to shell out P171.56 billion out of its budget and another P108.98 billion outside the budget, on top of its contribution to joint-venture pro-

P1.1T NEEDED/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.045 = $1

As of 5 p.m., April 4, 2006

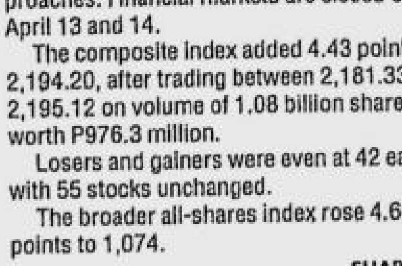
¥117.53 = $1

As of 5 p.m., April 4, 2006

GOLD: $586.00-586.50

per ounce Hong Kong, April 4, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares close slightly higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.20-percent higher yesterday, steadying after recent losses on late support for market leader PLDT in a generally range-bound session, dealers said.

They said trading volumes are expected to thin further as the Easter holiday break approaches. Financial markets are closed on April 13 and 14.

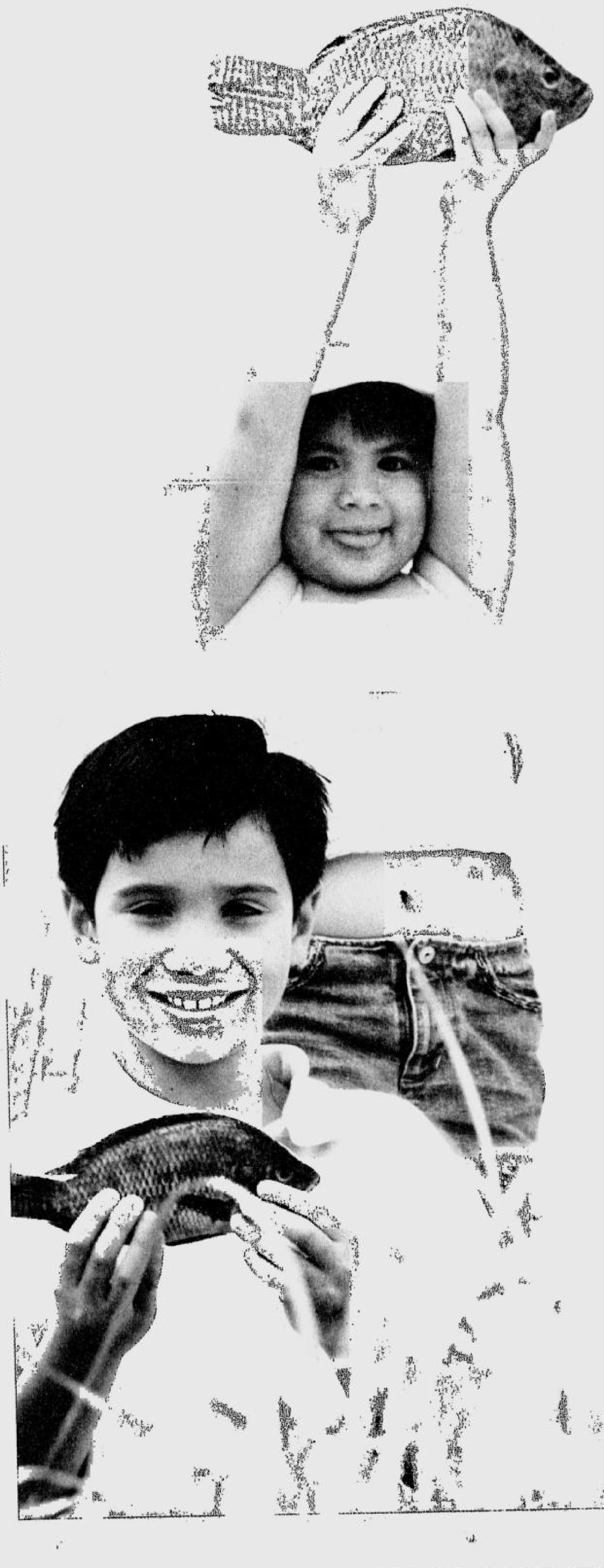
The composite index added 4.43 points to 2,194.20, after trading between 2,181.33 and 2,195.12 on volume of 1.08 billion shares worth P976.3 million.

Losers and gainers were even at 42 each, with 55 stocks unchanged.

The broader all-shares index rose 4.64 points to 1,074.

SHARES/ B4

AyalaLand PREMIER


You should have seen the size of the one that got away!! (It gets bigger each time it is re-told!)
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Subic port expanding cargo handling capacity

JBIC loan funds purchase of new equipment

By Ronnel W. Domingo

DEVELOPMENT WORK TO MAKE Subic a world-class freeport got a boost as authorities secured the delivery of two gantry cranes under the $215-million port development project.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Feliciano G. Salonga said the acquisition of the two cranes would complement efforts to increase the capacity of the Subic sea port to 600,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU), which would make the area a regional economic hub.

Salonga said this after a trip to Japan where he joined an SBMA team that finalized the purchase of two goose neck-type Quay Gantry cranes, each capable of lifting 40.6 tons.

The cranes will be delivered in the third quarter and installed in Subic's Container Terminals 1 and 2.

Two more cranes will be delivered by mid-2007 in time for the expected completion of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac expressway project.

Subic and Clark are being packaged as world-class gateways for incoming and outgoing cargoes, mainly through Subic's sea and air terminals and Clark's international airport.

"With the installation of four cranes, the annual port capacity of the container terminals (in Subic) would increase to 100,000 TEUs," Feliciano said.

The official said SBMA bought the cranes through an agreement with Penta-Ocean Construction Co.

The acquisition was made possible under a loan package from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

SBMA is implementing the Subic Bay Port Development Project. It involves the construction of modern container terminals, two berths measuring 280 meters long and 13 meters deep as well as the installation of four cranes.

Aside from the container ports, the port modernization project also has a grain terminal that would cater to non-containerized cargoes, mainly bulk grain shipments.

The official said more shipping companies would be attracted to do business in the country with the provision of containerized and non-containerized cargo handling facilities in Subic.

PBP completes Szopad's 526 'Bridges of Hope'

THE 526 STEEL BRIDGES PROGRAMMED for construction in the Special Zone for Peace and Development (Szopad) have been fully completed nine months ahead of schedule and with steel materials savings good for 50 more bridges.

This was the report to President Macapagal-Arroyo of Public Works and Highways Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., chair of the President's Bridge Program and PBP executive director Emil Sadain.

The UK government-assisted bridge project, which covered the entire island of Mindanao, was started in July 2001 in response to the demand of ARMM neighboring provinces and cities for infrastructure support. Some 526 Szopad "Bridges of Hope" would provide residents in these areas wider access to government services.

"PBP is one responsive program of the government that has been implemented with fidelity to time target and costing. Since it started, it has proceeded with no cost overruns incurred, accomplished ahead of schedule and with bridge materials savings good for 50 more bridges," said Ebdane.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos started the PBP during his term as a parallel intervention to fast track the development of infrastructure particularly in areas newly opened for agricultural production.

The prefabricated modular steel panels used for the PBP were supplied by Mabey & Johnson, sole manufacturer in the UK of the latest state of the art processed prefabricated modular steel bridges materials.

Peso rallies …

From page B1

than the locals," said Marcelo Ayes, chief foreign exchange dealer at Equitable PCIBank.

"We're looking at 50.50:$1 (as the next target) on strong remittances ahead of tuition payments (starting this month)," said Jonathan Ravelas, chief strategist at Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

OFW remittances are seasonally strong in the months of April and May in time for tuition payments for the school year which starts in June.

Ayes said the recent peso uptrend looked sustainable and that the next key barriers would be at 50.80 and 50.50.

The peso likewise benefited from a strong regional currency market after the US dollar fell due to weak manufacturing data in the world's biggest economy.

The peso broke into the 50:$1 level for the first time this year last March 7 on the strong influx of foreign portfolio investments. At that time, the market suspected that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas was starting to intervene to stem the peso's sharp appreciation by buying dollars from the spot foreign exchange market.

Ayes said the market was perked up by expectations that the government's main revenue-collecting agencies—the bureaus of Internal Revenue and of Customs—likely met their collection targets for March.

He explained that the Brady bond buyback likewise sent positive signals because it meant that the government was now in a stable fiscal position to afford the prepayment of these bonds, some of which would mature in 2018.

"That's why interest rates are likewise going down," he said.

₱1.1T needed …

From page B1

jects with the private sector.

Projects planned to be undertaken through public-private partnership were expected to amount to nearly P500 billion.

Of the total investments required, the transportation sector was expected to gobble up the lion's share at P567.56 billion, mostly for Metro Manila.

The power sector was estimated to require P295.05 billion, of which about P109.91 billion would go to projects in Luzon, P85.86 billion in Mindanao and P58.16 billion in Visayas.

The requirements of the water sector were estimated at P186.82 billion, mostly for Metro Manila, and of other social infrastructure, at P43.85 billion.

The basic thrusts of all the infrastructure projects envisioned for the Philippines were to bring the people into the "development mainstream," decongest Metro Manila and provide safety nets especially in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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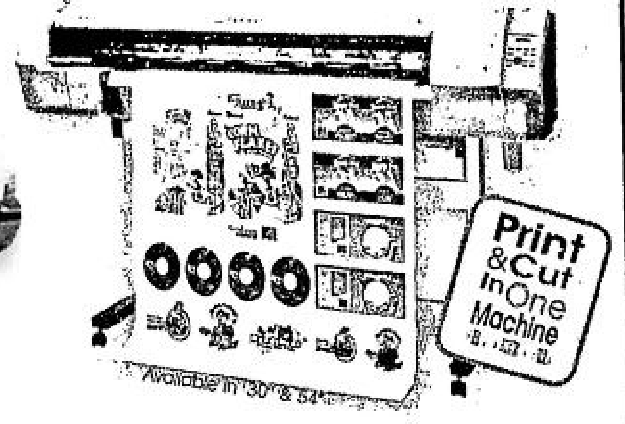

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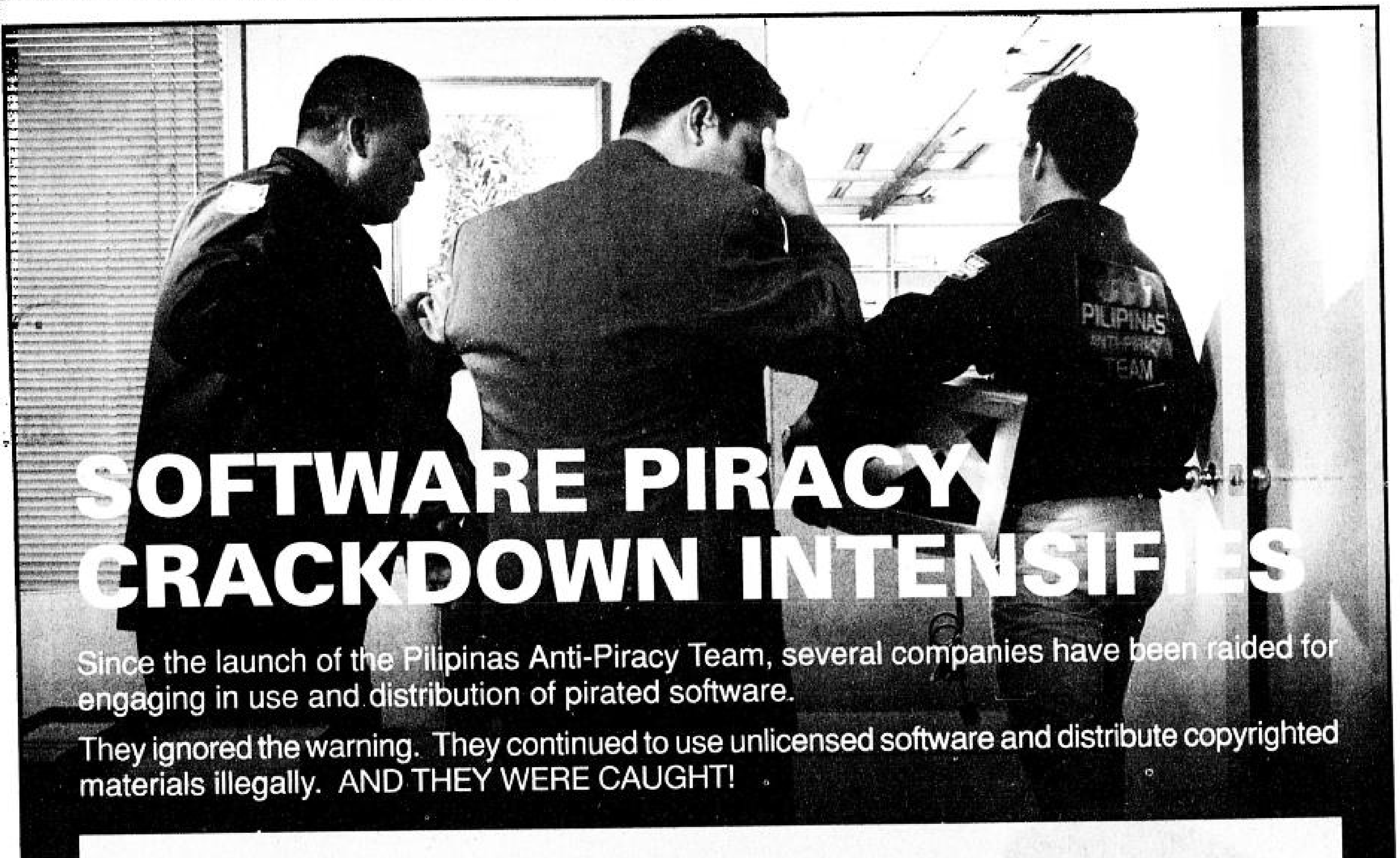

SOFTWARE PIRACY CRACKDOWN INTENSIFIES

Since the launch of the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team, several companies have been raided for engaging in use and distribution of pirated software.

They ignored the warning. They continued to use unlicensed software and distribute copyrighted materials illegally. AND THEY WERE CAUGHT!

PILIPINAS ANTI-PIRACY TEAM

Aug. 16, 2005 : Architectural design company raided in Pasig City for use of unlicensed software

Sept. 17, 2005 : European car dealer raided in Mandaluyong City for use of unlicensed software

Sept. 22, 2005 : Stores inside malls in Pasig, Mandaluyong, Manila and Quiapo raided for selling pirated software

Oct. 10, 2005 : 6 construction and engineering firms in Pasig and Makati City raided for use of unlicensed software

Oct. 15, 2005 : An American and his Filipino business partner arrested in Cebu City for selling pirated software

Nov. 23, 2005 : House in Cebu City raided for unauthorized duplication of optical discs

Nov. 24, 2005 : 4 branches of a large internet café chain in Metro Manila raided for use of unlicensed software

Dec. 02, 2005 : Internet cafes in San Fernando, Pampanga inspected for unlicensed software

Dec. 10, 2005 : Internet café and two computer shops in Quezon City raided for use of unlicensed software and hard disk loading

Dec. 30, 2005 : Printing press in Tondo, Manila raided for printing materials for pirated CDs

Jan. 17, 2006 : 2 branches of popular comics and magazine store in Makati City and two computer shops in Quezon City raided for selling pirated software

Feb. 23, 2006 : Real estate property developer in Pasig City raided for use of unlicensed software

March 03, 2006: Contractor firm in Pampanga raided for use of unlicensed software

March 17, 2006: 2 stores in a popular mall in Quezon City raided for installing computers with and selling pirated software

This year, the nationwide crackdown intensifies. More raids will take place as we remain committed to stopping the prevalence of software piracy among businesses. This is in line with the government's efforts to improve the protection of intellectual property rights for the development of the national economy.

Lawsuits, hefty fines, embarrassment and imprisonment are some of the damaging consequences of using and/or distributing pirated software.

Legalize your software now.

National Bureau of Investigation **Optical Media Board** **Philippine National Police**

Mystery buyer, Equitable terms

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

AFTER WEEKS OF BACKROOM talks, innumerable phone calls and calculated media leaks, the mystery buyer of Equitable PCIBank yesterday submitted a "formal binding" offer of P20.5 billion on the SM-Banco de Oro block as requested.

The Siguion Reyna Montecillo & Ongsiako law firm gave the written commitment after the SM-BDO counsel, Herrera Teehankee Faylona & Cabrera, expressed reservation on the "statement of interest" that Siguion Reyna had earlier submitted.

Today, incidentally, is the original deadline given by Siguion Reyna's unnamed principal for SM-BDO to accept its "statement of interest" on the 215.9 million shares that the family of taipan Henry Sy Sr. holds in Equitable PCIBank.

"Please be informed ... that our clients are not offering to sell the SM/BDO shares," Herrera Teehankee wrote back.

"However, if there is a binding offer to acquire the said shares, at the price range that was indicated in the (Siguion Reyna's) letter, then our clients are willing to consider the same, subject to the execution of mutually acceptable documentation."

The purchase offer, submitted to SM-BDO through GSIS president Winston Garcia, proposes a P2.05 billion, or 10 percent, down payment upon the signing of a sale agreement, with the balance payable in two tranches six and 12 months thereafter.

The offer, at P95 a share, limits the purchase of the SM-BDO shareholdings to not more than 215.9 million shares or their group's shareholdings on March 2, 2006, "whichever is lower."

At 215.9 million, the SM-BDO stake would translate to 29.69 percent of Equitable PCIBank. The bank's share price, incidentally, closed that trading day at P65.

The Siguion Reyna law firm was the same law firm that represented the "rebel" Equitable PCIBank board when both SM-BDO and the Government Service Insurance System were fighting to wrest control of the bank from the Go family.

1.8-liter, 1.6-price

THE NEW, sharper-looking Honda Civic has increased the engine displacement of its entry-level model to 1.8 liters, from the traditional standard of 1.6.

The 1.8V manual costs P767,000, only P6,000 more than the 1.6 VTi manual that it replaced. Despite its more powerful engine, the new Civic is still priced as the 1.6-liter models of other car makers, Honda spokesman Arnel Doria said.

Economic amnesia

THE MEDIA-SEEKING Benjamin Diokno has again resurfaced as the budget and public finance guru of deposed President Estrada, appearing not only in talk shows but in press conferences to lash at Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her GMA budget policies.

Strangely, just a few months ago, when he spoke before the foreign correspondents group, Diokno's lengthy bio data made no mention of his having served in the Estrada Cabinet at all.

The omission apparently was intentional.

During his speech and the subsequent Q&A session, Diokno spoke glowingly of his stint as the budget undersecretary of Corazon Aquino but was eerily silent on his disastrous Erap-era episode.

Heard through the grapevine

EXASPERATED by the continuing differences between the chair and president of BCDA, President Macapagal-Arroyo has returned the supervision of the strategic Bases Conversion Development Authority from the Department of Trade and Industry to the Office of the President.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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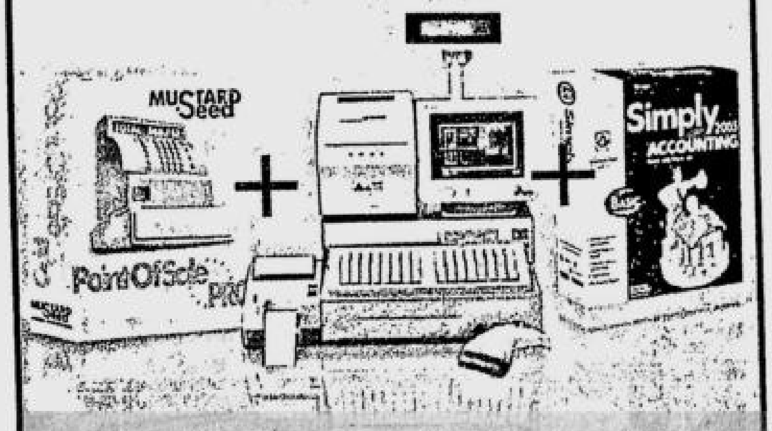

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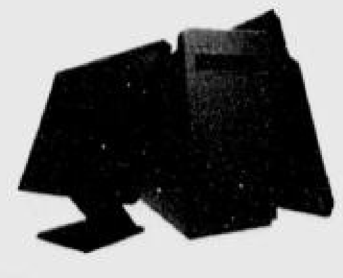

lenovo

Globe cautious on '06 prospects

Ayala telco says industry faced with single-digit sales growth

By Daxim L. Lucas

AYALA-OWNED GLOBE TELECOM Inc. will likely report a modest improvement in revenue and earnings this year as the company continues to struggle with the weakening demand for mobile phone services.

At the same time, the company announced plans to borrow up to $150 million this year to help it pay off maturing loans and take advantage of lower interest rates.

Globe's conservative performance estimate already marks an improvement over its performance for 2005 when its net income declined 9 percent from the previous year.

"We will see single-digit growth for revenues industry wide," Globe president and CEO Gerardo Ablaza told reporters in a briefing Tuesday. "Our net income will result from that."

Ablaza declined to give specific revenue and income targets although most stock analysts expect the company to earn anywhere from P11.5 billion to P13 billion this year from last year's P10.3 billion.

Globe is the country's second-largest telecommunications firm in terms of revenue and market share, trailing industry leader PLDT, which owns Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp.

The Globe chief noted, however that a single-digit growth in revenues would not automatically translate to modest earnings growth as well, since the company was also looking for ways to reduce costs—the other factor that determines a firm's net income.

"This doesn't mean we'll see the same [level of] growth in profits," he said, noting that the company has, in fact, begun to show a pattern of improvement in quarterly financial reports. This was especially true during the fourth quarter of 2005 when the company reported record-high quarterly revenues, weak overall performance notwithstanding.

Ablaza said the company was reexamining several of its marketing programs to determine which ones were effective.

"We want to prevent a repeat of expensive programs like the SIM (subscriber identification module) swapping, which was very expensive but didn't result in good subscriber quality," he said, adding that terminating the program has saved Globe about P100 million a month.

The company's cautious approach toward its 2006 financial prospects echoes a similar statement made in February by its arch rival, although PLDT chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan has already shed some of his caution after noting his company's strong performance in the first quarter.

Ablaza noted that Globe has also turned in a good performance for the first quarter of 2006, but warned that "two data points don't make a trend."

At the briefing—as well as during the stockholders' meeting that preceded it—company officials struggled to explain the company's more conservative stance vis-à-vis its competitors, especially in bringing new technologies to the market as well as the adopting of innovative marketing and pricing schemes.

In terms of new technologies like the third-generation mobile phone network, Ablaza explained that the scheme was still in its infancy, adding that he expected current technology to be present for up to 15 years before it is overtaken by a newer standard.

During the briefing, Globe chief financial officer Delfin Gonzalez said he was readying financing options of between $100 million to $150 million for this year, some of which would be borrowed in pesos.

The company has maturing obligations of $148 million this year, he said.

"We are now entertaining proposals [from bankers]," he said. "We want some of them in pesos and at cheaper rates."

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Items to Bid for 2006 requirements	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Venue of Pre-bid Conference	Date/Venue of Submission and Opening of Bids	Non-Refundable Fee
Printing and Supply of Test Booklets for 2006 Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET)	P6,533,100.00 At P0.61 per page (210,000 Test Booklets)	April 20, 2006 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	May 09, 2006 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P5,000.00

Only bidders registered with the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for procurement of goods and services shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process. Bidders may obtain the list of the registration requirements for procurement of goods and services at the Office of the BAC Chairman, Commissioner Renato B. Valdecantos, 2nd floor, PRC Main Bldg., starting on April 6, 2006. Start of the Issuance of Certification of Registration to bidders shall start on April 20, 2006.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained by interested bidders starting on April 6, 2006 from the Office of the BAC Chairman.

The PRC Bids and Awards Committee shall screen the eligibility of prospective bidders based on their compliance with the eligibility requirements on a pass/fail basis, evaluate, and post-qualify bids based on a set of criteria of responsiveness to the Commission's need.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and its implementing rules and regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to verify the veracity of any information or authenticity of any document submitted in the course of bidding and to undertake ocular inspection of offices and facilities of bidders. It likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the PRC. It shall not assume any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders or any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

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Pre-need firm buys back old plans

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PRE-NEED FIRM PET PLANS INC. HAS PURchased P146 million worth of its old open-ended education plans from plan holders.

With this, the pre-need firm has retired as many as 2,065 traditional plans, high-ranking sources said, bringing its total open-ended plans to just 1,000 from over 4,000 in 2003.

In 2002, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) banned pre-need firms from selling open-ended education plans, or those that promised to pay school fees regardless of the cost.

These open-ended plans were affected by the deregulation of school fees in the early 1990s, bloating the liabilities of pre-need firms that sold them.

"The intention is to purchase them all and offer plan holders the option to avail themselves of our advance cash program," a high-ranking official said.

With the buyback, Pet Plans has reduced its net liabilities by P102.4 million.

Pet Plans has around 180,000 holders of pension, fixed value education and memorial plans.

Traditional education plans or the so-called open-ended plans make up less than 1 percent of its total plan holder base.

Pet Plans earlier said its trust fund had grown to P2.7 billion, which was enough to meet its obligations to plan holders.

The fund was invested largely in fixed-income government securities.

Computations as of December 2005 showed that Pet Plans was expecting to pay plan holders P400 million in benefits between 2006 and 2011.

To date, the company has a liquidity reserve of P1.185 billion consisting of cash and cash equivalents, which is 275 percent of expected payments over the next five years.

Shares …

From page B1

"The market is slowly getting into vacation mode, plus there's very little news," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

"Fund managers are starting to liquidate their positions in the market. Given this trend, the best time to buy stocks would be during Holy Week," said Jonathan Ravelas of Banco de Oro.

Top-traded PLDT closed up P10 at a fresh record high of P1,935 following gains in its New York-listed shares.

Investors also snapped up Philex Mining after gold and silver futures rose to their best levels in over two decades.

Philex "A," restricted to local investors, jumped 30 centavos to P2.90, while Philex "B," open to foreign investors, rose 25 centavos to P2.90.

Globe Telecom was down P5 to P870 while affiliate Manila Water dropped 10 centavos to P6.40. *AFP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 4, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7	23,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35	35	35	35	265,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	62	62.5	62	62	800,300
China Banking Corp.	710	710	710	710	3,030
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.46	0.46	12,550,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	71	71.5	70	71.5	451,700
International Exch. Bank	32	32.5	32	32.5	31,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39	39	38	38.5	520,800
Philippine National Bank	33	33	33	33	8,000
Phil. Savings Bank	40	40	40	40	2,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	58,300
Security Bank Corp.	43	43	43	43	261,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	36	36	36	36	2,400
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	27.5	28	27.5	27.5	11,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3160	3160	3160	3160	250
Ivantage Corp.	0.93	1.06	0.93	1.06	19,940,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	43	44.5	43	44.5	76,100
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	46.5	46.5	46	46	942,800
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	14.5	13.5	14.5	96,200
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21.5	21	21.25	631,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.4	7,495,000
Petron Corp.	4.25	4.35	4.25	4.3	2,118,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	250,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	110,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	2	2	2	2	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	18.75	19	18.75	19	3,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	36.5	35.5	36.5	199,000
Pancake House Inc.	4.1	4.15	4.05	4.05	219,000
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.71	490,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.5	2.5	386,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	140,000
San Miguel Corp. A	60	60.5	60	60.5	85,100
San Miguel Corp. B	80.5	80.5	78.5	79	379,900
Universal Robina Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.75	317,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.26	0.26	2,120,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Concrete Aggregates A	7	7	7	7	15,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	5,420,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	410,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	20,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4	4.1	4	4.1	1,072,000
CHEMICALS					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	12,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	2,300,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	130,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.008	0.007	0.0075	171,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	22,000,000
Ayala Corp.	355	357.5	352.5	357.5	59,610
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	180,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	5	5	495,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.55	2.6	2.55	2.55	283,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.195	0.2	6,260,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9	9	9	9	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.02	10,173,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.45	3.45	3.4	3.45	2,044,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.85	857,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	496,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	36,000
Medco Holdings	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.23	140,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	160,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	4,760,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.55	110,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.135	5,810,000
SM Investments Corp.	228	228	228	228	49,880
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	140,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	400,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.13	0.125	0.13	780,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	11.25	11.5	11	11.5	2,156,200
Belle Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.12	6,795,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.86	1.86	261,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.66	1.66	15,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.205	3,990,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.64	8,050,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	100,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.65	0.65	280,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	7,933,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	3	3.35	3	3.1	50,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.225	900,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	640,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.5	35,825,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	34,690,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.27	2,720,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	8	8	8	8	23,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.28	2,850,000
SM Development Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	725,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.7	997,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	2,930,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	31,300
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	14,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.96	0.98	0.96	0.98	250,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	870	870	865	870	48,790
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.9	3	2.85	3	7,830,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1935	1935	1930	1935	82,250
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	1,320,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	3,200,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	72,000
Philweb Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.022	0.024	158,700,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.48	2.48	438,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	13,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	1,814,900
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	1,355,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.72	1.76	2,266,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	10,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.15	3.3	3.15	3.3	227,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.44	0.46	1,230,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	650	650	650	650	2,090
iPeople Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	246,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Jardine Davies Inc.	22	22	22	22	100
Macroasia Corp.	1.88	1.94	1.88	1.88	436,000
Paxys Inc.	9.1	9.4	9.1	9.3	3,236,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.26	1.36	1.24	1.34	3,940,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.46	1.5	1.32	1.42	755,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	21,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	3,082,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.9	8	7.9	7.9	170,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	8,030,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,990,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	77,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.027	40,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	218,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.9	14,236,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.8	2.95	2.8	2.9	23,978,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25.5	25.5	25	25.5	755,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	700,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.25	1,030,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	85,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	1,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	590,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	150,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	54,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	2,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,600
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	184,000

CURRENCIES

April 4, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.823520	1.000000	51.0890
Japan	Yen	0.006998	0.008498	0.4342
United Kingdom	Pound	1.432430	1.739400	88.8642
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106129	0.128873	6.5840
Switzerland	Franc	0.631631	0.766989	39.1847
Canada	Dollar	0.703262	0.853971	43.6285
Singapore	Dollar	0.509699	0.618927	31.6204
Australia	Dollar	0.591439	0.718184	36.6913
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.185272	2.653576	135.5685
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219570	0.266624	13.6216
Brunei	Dollar	0.508126	0.617017	31.5228
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000111	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.021206	0.025750	1.3155
UAE	Dirham	0.224221	0.272272	13.9101
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.214300	62.0374
Argentina	Peso	0.267376	0.324675	16.5873
Brazil	Real	0.383764	0.466005	23.8077
Denmark	Kroner	0.134001	0.162718	8.3131
India	Rupee	0.018548	0.022523	1.1507
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.223721	0.271665	13.8791
Mexico	New Peso	0.075887	0.092149	4.7078
New Zealand	Dollar	0.505972	0.614402	31.3892
Norway	Kroner	0.127092	0.154328	7.8845
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013726	0.016667	0.8515
South Africa	Rand	0.134915	0.163827	8.3698
Korea	Won	0.000848	0.001030	0.0526
Sweden	Kroner	0.106354	0.129146	6.5979
Syria	Pound	0.015864	0.019264	0.9842
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025261	0.030675	1.5672
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000384	0.000466	0.0238

AC invests $20M in US fund

AYALA CORP., THE COUNTRY'S FOURTH largest conglomerate in terms of revenue, is investing $20 million (about P1 billion) in a fund handled by New York-based asset management firm The Rohatyn Group.

Ayala managing director Renato Marzan told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday that the company had approved the investment in The Rohatyn Group Special Opportunity Fund Ltd. (SOF), a fund that acquires a diverse portfolio of undervalued investments in emerging markets.

TRG Management LP, a member of The Rohatyn Group, is the investment manager of the fund.

Ayala will make the investment through affiliate Azalea International Venture Partners Ltd.

Ayala said its placement in SOF formed part of a strategy to tap opportunities to expand its equity portfolio and generate returns from medium-term investments.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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$ 100,000 UP	3.5000%	3.6250%	3.7500%

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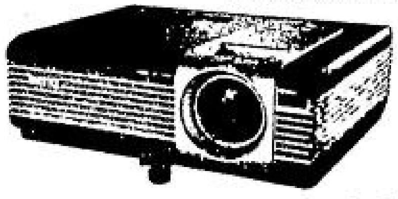

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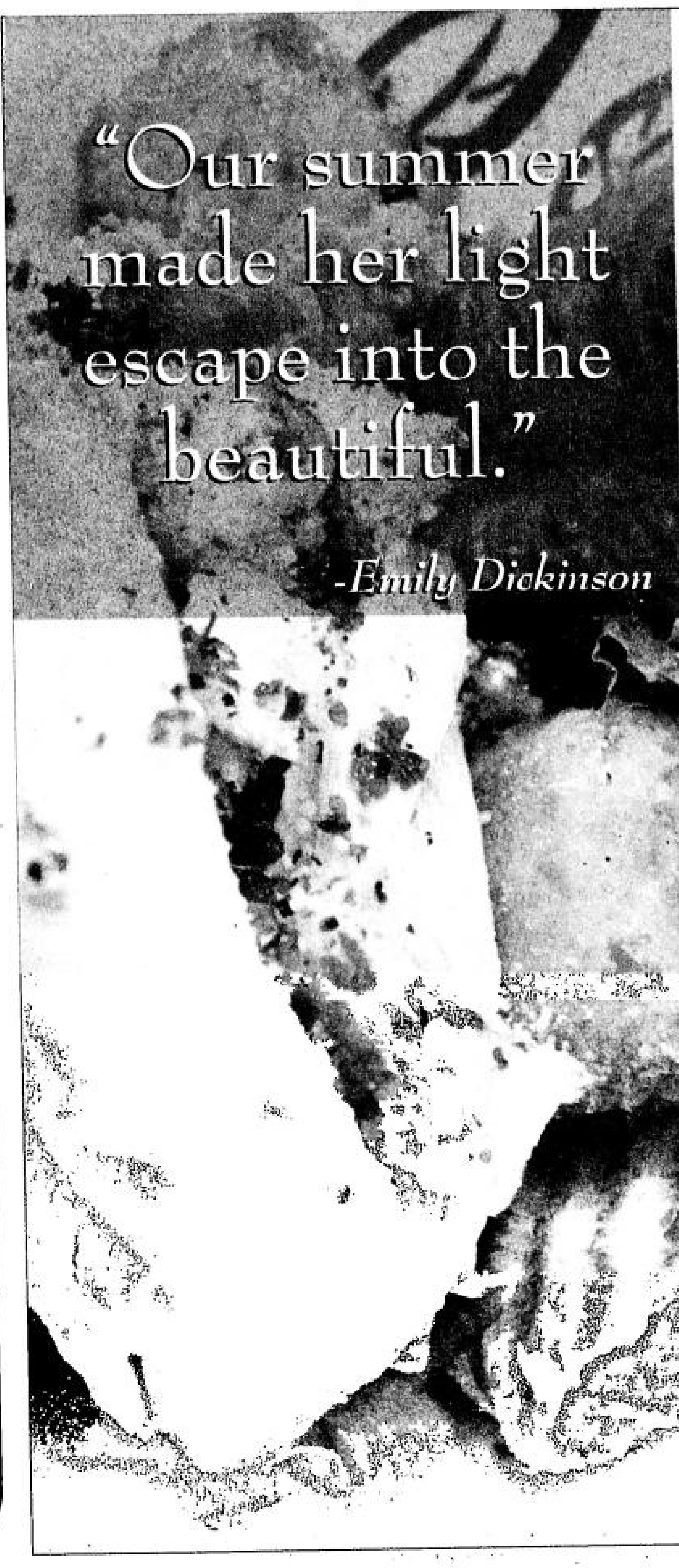

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JESUSA OSORIO TAN YANG

Peacefully joined our Lord
on April 2, 2006 at the age of 87.

Widow of **YANG ING KUONG (CHARLIE YANG (†))**

She is survived by her

children	*grandchildren*	*great grandchildren*
George & Kristine	Kenneth & Cindy Richmond & Carrie Kristopher & Cassie Karen & Garry	Kay, Kevin & Keith Ryan, Mondi, Raine and Yanna
Johnny & Helena	Pamela, Jerome & Jonathan	
Irene & Anthony	Rheena, Didi & Tara	

Her remains lie at Capilla Dela Virgen, Santuario De San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City. Interment will be on April 7, Friday, 9:00 A.M. at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

The Yang family requests friends that in lieu of flowers, voluntary donations can be made in memory of Mrs. Jesusa Osorio Tan Yang to the following charities – Augustinian Recollect Sisters, Kalinangan Youth Foundation and McDonald's Charities.

With faith in the Resurrection
THE DE LA SALLE BROTHERS OF THE PHILIPPINE DISTRICT
and THE PHILIPPINE LASALLIAN FAMILY
announce the death of

BR. WILLIAM J. GARVEY FSC

(BR. ERASMUS FRANCIS FSC)

Brother William died quietly in his room at La Salle Hall, Ammendale, MD, USA during the early morning of 31 March 2006. Born William John Garvey in Harrisburg, PA on 29 October 1929, he entered the Ammendale Novitiate on 20 June 1947 and received the Religious Habit and the name Erasmus Francis on 07 September 1947. He pronounced perpetual vows at Ammendale, MD in 1954. Brother William is survived by one niece, Lynn Garvey, of Seattle, WA. May he rest in peace.

Viewing at La Salle Hall, Ammendale, MD, USA on Tuesday, 04 April 2006, 11:00 am.
Mass of Christian Burial at noon followed by interment at the Brothers' Cemetery.

So Dearly Loved...
So Fondly Remembered...
So Truly Missed...

In Memory of

a devoted husband, a loving father and grandfather,
a dedicated friend and an inspiring leader...

MARCELO S. BALATBAT

September 4, 1908 – April 5, 2000

on the

6th Anniversary

of his rebirth to Eternal Life

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PMAP seminar on April

THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ASSOciation of the Philippines will be conducting a seminar on Mentoring Skills on April18-19. Seminar fee is P8,000 for PMAP Member and P9,500 for Non PMAP Members. Mentoring helps us enhance our self-understanding and facilitate self-development in the different aspects of our lives.

Mentoring helps us discover our potential, enhance our problem-solving skills and make us effective individuals and professionals. In the organization context, we can perform different roles – that of a mentee, mentor or line manager. Best practice confirms that mentoring is the fastest growing development approach and has benefited the organization, mentor and mentee.

Mentoring is applicable to all, whether one is an executive or a staff level and is regarded both as a human potential development effort and a work-life balance initiative.

A course on Stand Up and Deliver (Presentation Skills for Trainers) will be held on April 20-21. At the end of this module, the participants will be able to demonstrate effective application of training techniques, facilitate group processes and display mastery of behavioral competencies that enhance training delivery. Participants will learn mainly through simulations, skill practices and feedback. Registration fee is P5,750 for PMAP Members and P7,250 for Non PMAP Members.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Ten Years ago on April 5, 1996
A devoted Husband, Father and Grandfather

TOBIAS PALMA MARCELO

Left this world to join our Creator in His Heavenly Kingdom

His children and grandchildren request relatives and friends
to remember him in prayer on this day

"Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let
PERPETUAL LIGHT shine upon him"

Holy Masses will be offered today Wednesday, April 5, 2006 at the following churches:

Baclaran Parish, *Quirino Ave., Baclaran, P'que*	5:30 AM
Christ the King, *E. Rodriguez Blvd., Quezon City*	6:30 AM & 6:00 PM
Immaculate Conception Church, *Malabon City*	6:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Mary the Queen Parish, *Madison St., Greenhills, MM*	6:00 PM
Mount Carmel Church, *New Manila, Quezon City*	6:00 PM
National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, *Quezon City*	5:30 AM, 6:30 AM, 7:30 AM, 6:00 PM
Nuestra Señora De Guia Parish, *M.H. Del Pilar, Ermita, Manila*	12:15 PM
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, *1923 Orense St., Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati*	12:00 NN
Our Lady of Remedios Parish, *2000 M.H. Del Pilar, Malate, Manila*	6:00 AM, 7:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Sacred Heart Parish, *Dau St., San Antonio Village, Makati City*	6:00 AM & 6:30 PM
Santuario de San Antonio, *Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:15 AM, 7:30 AM, 12:15 PM & 6:00 PM
Santuario de San Jose, *Greenhills*	6:15 AM, 7:15AM, 6:15 PM
Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag, *Pangasinan*	
St. John Bosco Parish, *Arnais St., Makati City*	7:30 AM
St. Therese Parish, *4 Gilmore Ave., Quezon City*	6:30 AM
St. Vincent De Paul Parish, *959 San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila*	6:30 AM, 7:15 AM, 8:00 AM, 12:00 NN. 5:00 PM & 6:00 PM

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NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
Jesusa Osorio Tan Yang	Sanctuario de San Antonio	April 7, 2006/9:00 AM	Manila Memorial Park Parañaque
Lucia Silverio-Solidum	Chapel J, Q.C.	April 5, 2006/after the 1:00 PM Mass	Manila South Cemetery

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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 03
Series of 2006

TO ALL CONCERNED
SUBJECT: DOCUMENTATION FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT OF WORKERS CLASSIFIED AS MISSION CRITICAL SKILLS (MCS) WHICH ARE IN SHORTAGE
DATE : 30 MARCH 2006

Pursuant to Governing Board Resolution No. 1, series of 2006, adopting a framework for determining the level of skill supply and demand and the occurrence of shortage of mission critical skills in a particular industry, the POEA hereby identifies pilots and senior aircraft mechanics as MCS in shortage.

Pilots refer to captains and co-pilots/first officers who handle the following aircrafts: B737, B747, B777, A319, A320, A330, and A340. Senior mechanics refer to mechanics A and B who work in the following fields: airframe and powerplant, avionics, powerplant, as well as senior cabin, structural and tool and equipment mechanics.

In addition to existing POEA requirements, pilots and senior aircraft mechanics who are name hired and agencies deploying these types of skills shall present to POEA a proof of the worker's six months notice of resignation duly acknowledged by the present local employer/company, as a requirement for their documentation as OFWs.

For strict compliance effective 15 days from publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

(Sgd.) **ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ**
Administrator

(PDI--April 5, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Securities and Exchange Commission, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified local bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the SECURITY SERVICES Contract for 2006 for the SEC Main Office, SEC Building, EDSA Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for ten (10) guards per shift, in three (3) shifts, is FIVE MILLION NINE HUNDRED FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (5,904,000.00). The contract duration shall be for the period of one (1) year.

a. Corporation duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least seventy five percent (75%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizen of the Philippines; or
b. Bidder should have a valid and current license issued by PNP; and,
c. Must have at least ten (10) years continuous operation.

A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained by the eligible bidder starting **March 29 to April 10, 2006** at the General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, upon presentation of original PNP License to Operate and a payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00). For further details, please contact Asst. Director Romeo O. Dauag at Tel. No. 727-3320. Only those bidders who purchased the Bid Documents are allowed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference.

Pre-Bid conference will be on **April 10, 2006, 10:00 A.M.** at the Hearing Room No. 2, Compliance and Enforcement Department (CED), 5th Floor, SEC Building.

Deadline for submission of bids will be on **April 28, 2006, 2:00 P.M.** at the General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building and immediately thereafter, the opening of bids will be held at the Hearing Room No. 2, Compliance and Enforcement Department (CED), 5th Floor, SEC Building. Bids submitted after 2:00 P.M. will no longer be accepted.

Republic Act 9184, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation, Post Qualification and Awards of Contracts.

The SEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposal as evaluated is most advantageous to the Commission.

SEC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JOSE AQUINO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--March 29 & April 5, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Bldg. 5, 2nd Floor Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5295

PNOC

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

PURCHASE OF CAPILLARY TUBING UNDER GQ-516719
APPROVED BUDGET PHP 3,000,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Alejandro V. Andres** starting **April 03, 2006**, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **April 12, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply, Property, and Materials Management Division at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Purchasing Office Wall Clock Time)** of ***April 27, 2006***. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee II

(PDI – April 5 & 16, 2006)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO, Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320 Fax No. 840-1575

PNOC
The Energy Company

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Environmental Performance Report and Management Plan (EPRMP) for the Mindanao Geothermal Power Project
EDC 06-030

1. PNOC-Energy Development Corporation invites interested contractors/consultants:
   a. Who have undertaken the preparation of at least five (5) Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) since 1996, for which Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECCs) have been issued by the DENR, either under DAO 96-37 or DAO 2003-30,
   b. Whose team leader/peer reviewer holds a Doctorate Degree in any environmental science course and/or related fields, and whose modular specialists hold a Masters Degree in their specific field of expertise as called for by this project, and
   c. Whose team leader/peer reviewer possesses experience in technical and administrative supervision and review of environmental assessment projects in at least five (5) EIS under DAO 96-37 or DAO 2003-30, and whose modular specialists possesses a minimum of five (5) years recent experience in their field of expertise

   to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Environmental Performance Report and Management Plan (EPRMP) for the Mindanao Geothermal Power Project under project number EDC 06-030, having an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of PhP 4,884,310.00. The contract shall be completed within two hundred seventy-eight (278) calendar days. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

   PNOC-Energy Development Corporation shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation/Selection (QCBE/QCBS). The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids are indicated in the bidding documents.
3. Interested consultants may obtain further information from PNOC-Energy Development Corporation at the address given below from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below from March 29, 2006 to May 2, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP2,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. PNOC-Energy Development Corporation will hold a site inspection on April 7, 2006. Itinerary and details of site inspection shall be relayed to all firms who secured the bidding documents.
6. PNOC-Energy Development Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 10:00 a.m. of April 18, 2006 at the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Energy Compound, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Admin. Group Office Wall Clock Time) of May 2, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and in the amount as stated in the Instructions to Bidders. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be immediately after the deadline of submission of bids at the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Energy Compound, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
c/o The Bids and Awards Committee
Building V, Energy Compound, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila
(632) 893-6001
cag@energy.com.ph
(632) 840-1461
www.energy.com.ph

(Sgd.) FRANCIS M. DOLOR
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–April 5, 2006)

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For interested applicants, submit the following requirements with a Letter of Application to the Human Resource Department, Camp John Hay Development Corp., 5/F Renaissance Tower, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City not later than **07 April 2006**: Comprehensive Resumé with at least one contact number, 2x2 ID Picture, SSS Number, Tax Identification Number and Certificate/s of Employment. Look for **Regina Q. Culzon** or e-mail your requirements to cjhhumanresource@yahoo.com

---

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(PDI – April 5, 2006)

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PHC-MAS' 17TH ANNUAL SYMPO/3RD SCIENTIFIC SESSION APRIL 6-7

The Philippine Heart Center Medical Alumni Society, Inc. (PHC-MAS) will conduct its 17th Annual Symposium/3rd Scientific Session in Cardiology and Pulmonary Medicine entitled "Basic and Emerging Trends in Cardiopulmonary Medicine" on April 6-7 at the Garden Ballroom, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Photo shows some of the members of the Organizing Committee (from left): Drs. Edgar S. Tuazon (Chairman of Scientific Committee), Jeanna V. Ples, Myla Gloria F. Salazar-Supe (partly hidden), Ma. Paz B. Mateo, Liberty O. Yaneza, Ma. Encarnita C. Blanco-Limpin (current President of PHC-MAS), Marie T. Magno, Ma. Cecilia S. Bondoc, Lucas C. Uy, and Val O. Custodio.

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. – RFA

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OBITUARIES

Sra. Lourdes Torralba y Basquiñes vda. de Gonzalez-Abella

Otey, Mama, Lola entered into eternal life with her loving Creator on Sunday, April 2nd, 2006.

Liberated at long last from almost three decades of painful chronic illness, she went peacefully into the night, surrounded by family and loyal caregivers.

For ninety-one years, she lived as a woman of abiding faith, of uncompromising principle, and of deep commitment to family.

Her last wish was to make a genuine contribution to the faith-education of young children and to the strengthening of families in her native town, Polangui, Albay. Her mission of selflessness is carried out through the work of the St. Joseph Chapel of Basud Association, an organization which she founded.

Her family - both natural and extended - friends and those whose lives she once touched, all thank and praise God for the gift of her life and her special impact on our own lives.

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord
-Psalm 84

Mama's remains will be cremated without viewing, as she wished. Her ashes will be waked for a few days at the Santa Maria della Strada Church, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City, before being interred in the St. Joseph Chapel of Basud in Polangui, Albay.

I am the way,
the truth
and the life.
No one comes
to the
Father except
through Me.
John 14:6

TROY C. TUERES

Died in the Grace of the Lord on April 2, 2006 at the age of 28.

He is survived by his parents, **Adan and Teresita**, brother **Stephen Tueres** & sister-in-law **Donna Tan Tueres**.

His body lie in state at Del Pilar Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be at Manila Memorial Park after the 9:00 o'clock Mass, on Saturday, April 8, 2006.

"All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last."

— From the Prayer, Safely Home

ROMULO "DODO" Y. PETINES, JR.

Chairman & President, Isabela Feed Meal & Livestock, Inc.
Chairman & President, Rural Bank of San Mateo, Isabela, Inc.
Chairman, R.A. Petines, Inc.

peacefully joined his Creator on April 3, 2006 at the age of 63, and is safely home in His bosom.

He is survived by his spouse, **Leny** (nee **Navarro**), daughter **Sandy** & spouse **Jonas**, daughter **Trina** & spouse **Sonny**, son **Gelo** & spouse **Abby**, son **Paolo** and grandchildren **Eia, Ticho, Bea, Carl, Alexa & Arabelle**.

His brothers and sisters, **Bob & Nora, Nenita & Roland, Nelson & Ching, Helen & Red, Ling & Sol, Nancy & Charlie, My † & Arlyn** mourn with them and request the pious reader to pray for the repose of Dodo's soul and the well-being of his family.

A Requiem Mass will be held 7:30 a.m., Friday, April 7, 2006 at the Petines Family residence in 54 Times Street, West Triangle, Quezon City. Interment will be at the family mausoleum in Loyola Memorial Park (LMP), Marikina City after the cremation scheduled for 11:00 a.m. at the LMP Crematorium.

BUSINESS

RP reduced public sector deficit to ₱106B in '05

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES TRIMMED ITS CONSOLIdated public sector deficit to only P106 billion at end-2005, or P74.3 billion better than the target set, due to the improved fiscal position of the national government and major state-owned corporations.

The CPSD for 2005 accounted for 2 percent of gross domestic product and represented a 54.3 percent improvement from the P231.96 billion posted the previous year, the Department of Finance reported yesterday.

The government corporate sector exceeded its own deficit targets. Fourteen monitored non-financial public enterprises reduced their borrowings by P21.7 billion versus the projected level of P42.5 billion.

Social security institutions generated a total surplus of P51.8 billion for the period, with the Government Service Insurance System posting a surplus of P31.4 billion due to continuing reforms.

The Social Security System likewise posted a surplus of P14.7 billion due to an increase in members' contributions, which enabled revenues to exceed benefit payouts for the first time in six years.

Local government units likewise performed better during the year, chalking up a preliminary cash surplus of P13 billion for the period.

Government financial institutions, including the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, also generated a surplus of P6.2 billion as earnings from an expanded loan portfolio offset the cost of paying higher dividends paid to the government.

In the past, the National Power Corp. always weighed down the CPSD. But the government has begun privatizing some of its assets. Now, the state utility has improved its fiscal performance dramatically.

The International Monetary Fund, in its latest report on the Philippines, said it would be good to set a deficit ceiling for each corporation to improve individual governance.

Shell now looking at expansion, not relocation

By Abigail L. Ho

GOOD REFINING MARGINS MAY compel Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. to hold on to its refinery here and even expand it.

The country's second biggest oil firm is now thinking twice about shutting down its refinery operations here, said an official of Pilipinas Shell.

"The environment has changed so much from when (Shell) was not in a position to even make its headquarters consider an expansion," said the official who refused to be identified. "I think we're now at that point where (Shell) is seriously considering expansion."

The source explained that in recent months, refiners had been posting better margins, due mainly to the price difference between crude and refined petroleum products.

Right now, the source said the price difference between the regional benchmark Dubai crude, and diesel based on the Mean of Platts Singapore benchmark for refined petroleum products, was pegged at around $20 a barrel.

While it was smaller in February, at almost $15 a barrel, the present difference is still a fairly sizeable margin—enough for Shell to consider expanding its refinery here instead of shutting it down, the source said.

The oil firm's law-mandated initial public offering now hinges on the company's decision on whether or not to expand, the source added.

"Once (Shell officials) make a decision, then they can also go ahead with the IPO," the source said.

The company's final decision would come by year's end, he said.

For some years now, primarily since the closure of Chevron Philippines Inc.'s refinery in late 2003, discussions have been rife whether Shell would tread the same path.

According to Shell country chair Edgar Chua, the magnitude of the firm's investment requires a serious and thorough review. He said the decision on whether to continue operations would not be an easy one to make.

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

MOTORING
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RP's premier auto show kicks off tomorrow

By Charles E. Buban

THERE IS DEFINITELY something here for everyone! You want horsepower? Check out the 550-horsepower Motul Ford GT. You want luxury? The all-new third generation Toyota Previa or the recently unveiled Nissan Murano is for you. Sporty? You have a choice between Mitsubishi's Lancer Evolution IX MR and the Eclipse 3.8 V6.

Indeed, the 2nd Manila International Auto Show (MIAS)—previously The Manila International Motor Show—promises to be a showcase of all sorts of vehicles to thrill and delight car fans of all ages.

Opening tomorrow (and running until April 9 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.) at the World Trade Center in Pasay City, the MIAS is organized by Worldbex Services International and supported by the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi), the umbrella association of the major car manufacturers and dealers in the country.

"The auto show aims not only to display the latest and concept vehicle models but also trigger demand for the country's automotive industry and encourage cooperation among industry players," said WSI founding chair Joseph Ang.

Great deals, promos

In fact, Ang informed there will be great deals and promos awaiting those who will decide to purchase a new vehicle and car accessories during the MIAS while BPI Credit Cards will hold its first-ever Auto Madness installment promo, also during the show.

Total Philippines will also have a booth to showcase its fuel and lubricant products as well as give away thousands of pesos in free fuel every day of the show.

In addition, MIAS' partner, Campi will hold presentations on what's new and what's important in RP's motoring industry.

"Of course, the 2nd Manila International Auto Show's crowd drawers will be the several scheduled vehicle unveilings and presentations of never-before seen special and concept vehicles," hinted Ang.

Honda Cars Philippines is expected to unveil publicly its all-new 8th generation Civic as well as Kia Motors Philippines with its all-new Rio sedan and hatchback, and Hyundai with its all-new Santa Fe sport utility vehicle.

Also, the Jeep brand will make a comeback to the Philippines with its Commander SUV courtesy of CATS Motors, the brand's exclusive distributor here (incidentally, CATS Motors will also debut Chrysler's all-

RP'S/B2-3

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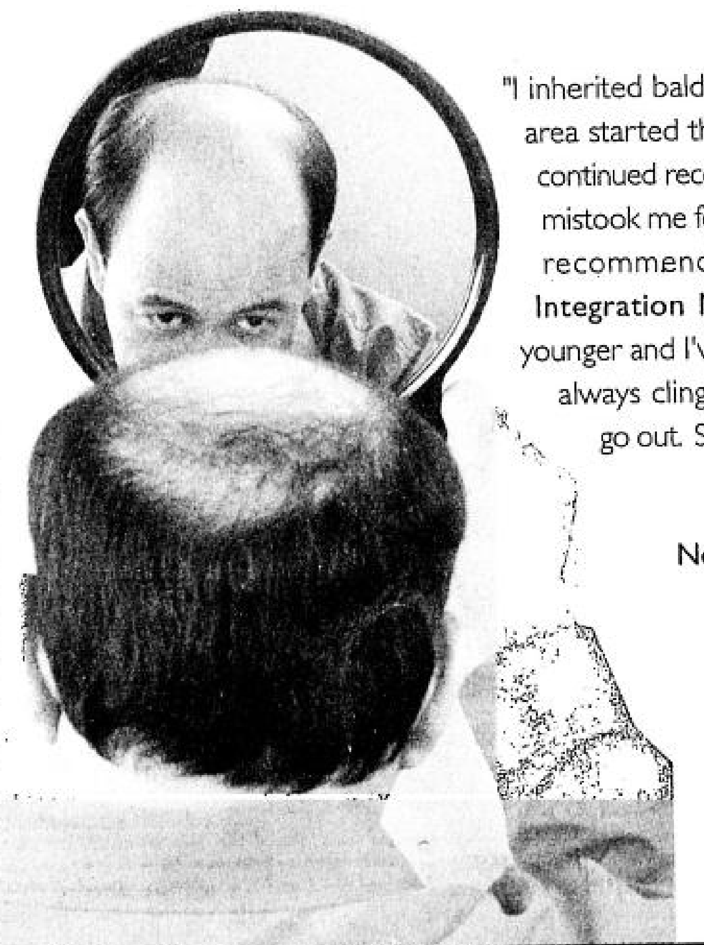

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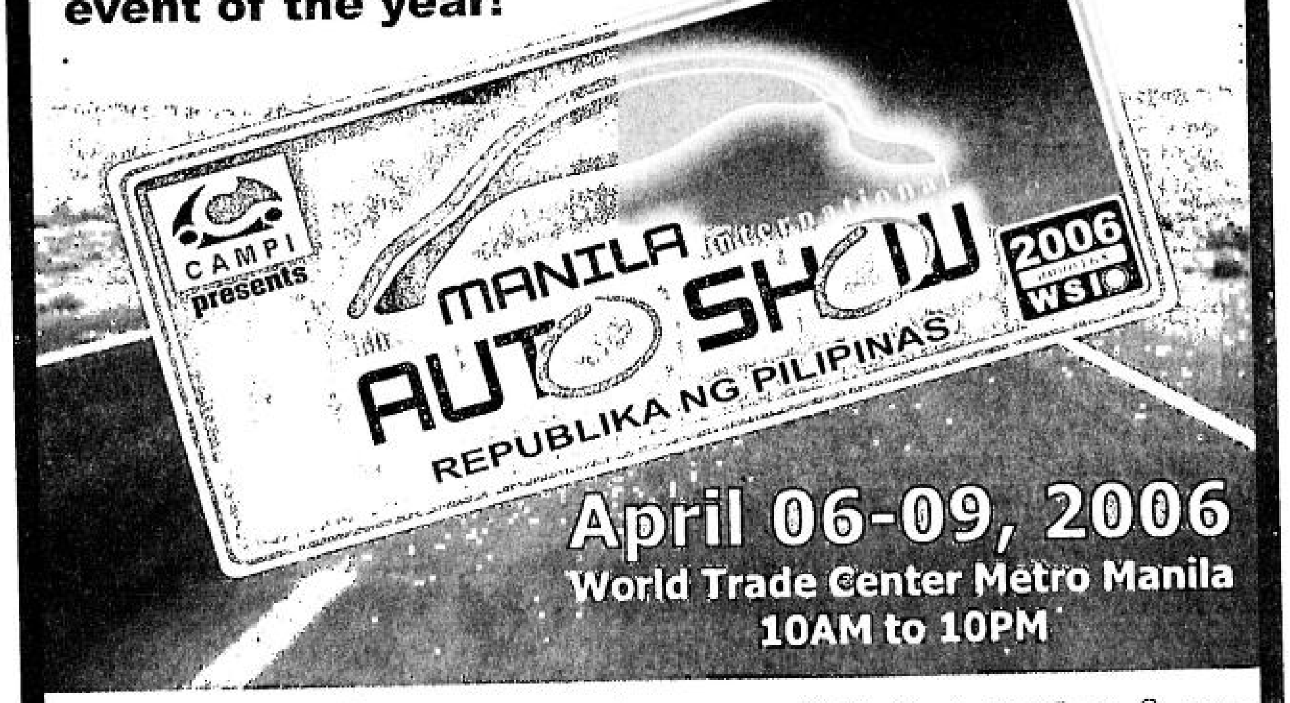

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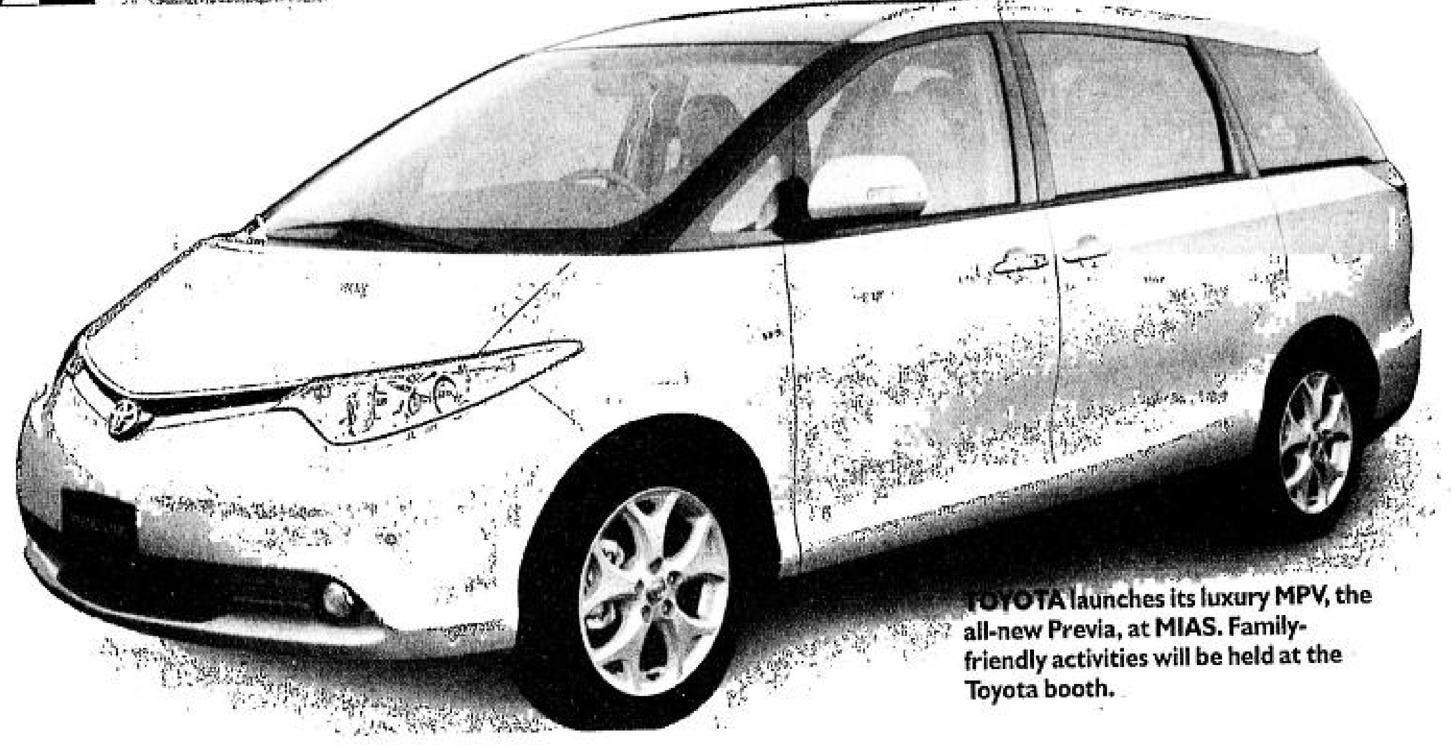

TOYOTA launches its luxury MPV, the all-new Previa, at MIAS. Family-friendly activities will be held at the Toyota booth.

Campi presents 2nd Manila auto show

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

ON APRIL 28, 2005, THE FIRST MANILA MOtor Show organized by event manager Worldbex Services International had a highly successful grand opening at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard in Manila. Tomorrow morning, Worldbex's second motor show will be opened to the public at the same venue, this time with a new title—the Manila International Auto Show (MIAS)—and under the official auspices of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi).

In deciding to endorse the MIAS, Campi—which counts among its members all the carmakers doing business in the Philippines except Ford—must have considered the history of the automobile industry here. As pointed out by award-winning motioncars.com writer Jason Ang, in the years after World War II, the Philippines became an attractive venue for foreign investments, including Japanese firms that sought to expand their markets by establishing factories here.

Benz plant

It was also during the postwar era, in 1955 to be precise, that Mercedes-Benz set up an assembly plant in the Philippines, the first in the world outside Germany to produce the E-Class sedan. In 1972, notes Ang, General Motors established a vehicle and transmission manufacturing plant in partnership with two Philippine companies and seven years later, Isuzu Motors invested in the GM Pilipinas Inc. joint venture.

I don't know what year Ford and Toyota entered the picture, but they sure were selling a lot of cars here, what with so many Ford Escorts, Ford Fairlanes, Toyota Corollas, Coronas and Crowns on the road. For a time, Volkswagen Beetles were also a common sight, ditto GM's Chevrolet Bel Air and Dodge Colt models maneuvering for road space among the jeepneys and horse-drawn "calesas."

However, foreign investments and expansion ground to a halt during the martial law regime of President Marcos. Toyota, Ford and GM shut down their operations and pulled out of the country, to return only after a new democracy with freer trade policies took over when Edsa I toppled the dictatorship in 1986.

Back in full

Now, 20 years after Edsa I, major carmakers from Japan, Europe and the United States are back in full force with South Korea as the new kid on the block. Although the Philippine car market is not as large as Thailand's, the auto industry is growing fast here, with both new and old players bringing in their newest products and offering low-interest financing schemes to car buyers.

The introduction of the latest high-tech cars such as the 2006 Honda Civic and the Nissan Murano SUV underscores the need for an annual international-grade, industry-based motor show in Manila. Thus, Campi's presentation of the MIAS from April 6 to April 9, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the World Trade Center, Pasay City.

Public debut

A scan of the list of new models making their public debut at the MIAS should motivate car buffs to ignore the summer heat and rush to the MIAS. To be displayed for everyone's scrutiny are the Chrysler Pacifica luxury wagon, the exciting all-new Honda Civic, the 2006 Hyundai Santa Fe SUV (to be launched in Manila this August), the Jeep Commander SUV, the all-new Toyota Previa and the Nissan Murano crossover SUV that was launched only last Wednesday.

Exotic dream cars such as the 550 hp Motul Ford GT sports car and the Mitsubishi Evo IX MR, two of the fastest cars in the world, are sure to attract crowds. Ditto the Mitsubishi Eclipse 3.8 V6, Toyota's TF105 Formula I race car, World Rally Championship (WRC) contender Ford Focus ST and Paris-to-Dakar endurance rally champion Mitsubishi Pajero Evo. For alternative fuel advocates, Mercedes-Benz's hydrogen-powered fuel cell car, the F-Cell and the Isuzu Elf hybrid truck will be displayed.

HYUNDAI introduces the all-new Santa Fe SUV, with a V6 gasoline engine, and seating for seven.

Car of the year

And, to top it all, the Car of the Year—Philippines winner, the Mazda6 2.3L executive sedan, will take center stage.

No one can deny that the automobile industry is a major contributor to Philippine economic progress and social development. At least once a year, the industry's players deserve to show off their latest offerings and remind everyone that they are helping move the country forward through advanced mobility.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Yes, it's fast and no, you can't drive it.

Sizzling Sakata success

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

> "There is no small job. If you do your best, every job becomes big"

IN MY YEARS OF DEALING WITH Japanese automotive executives both here and abroad, I noticed that they have virtually one thing in common: they have stuck to their first jobs.

Ryo Sakata is the latest dude to fit the bill.

I like people who value loyalty. They are assets, friends through thick and thin.

I met the dapper Sakata-san, the president of Tri Petch Isuzu Sales Co. Ltd of Thailand, during the 27th Bangkok International Motor Show through Timmy Naval. Timmy, of course, is the friendliest at the Isuzu Philippine Corp. (ask Ronald "IJ" Baladad). Art Balmadrid only knows too well that in Timmy, he has a powerhouse front-act in the mold of Toyota's Ariel de Jesus, Honda's Tin Tin Reyes, Jaguar's Dino Directo, BMW's Maricar Parco, Nissan's Raymond Tribdino, Volvo's Loi Concepcion and Lyn Manalansang-Buena and Mitsubishi's Arlan Reyes.

"Sir, I'd like you to meet the Main Man of Isuzu Thailand, Mr. Ryo Sakata," said Timmy as she ushered me, rather gingerly, to Sakata.

Sakata-san struck me as extremely humble amid his smashing, sizzling success as the Isuzu top gun of Thailand, the booming as always Southeast Asian country described by Ms Panatda Chennavasin as the "Pickup Capital of the World." That is so because Isuzu has been No. 1 in sales of trucks and pickups the last 23 years in Thailand. What a feat, indeed!

After his university studies in 1971, Sakata, then only 21, started working at Mitsubishi. Mitsubishi, as you know, is a majority owner of Isuzu. After 15 years at Mitsubishi, Sakata was moved to Isuzu and, for the next 15 years, he established himself as an outstanding force at Isuzu's sales surge of trucks and pickups. In 1988, he was made chief of Isuzu's Project Planning Department. Nine years later, he was promoted chief of corporate planning in Tri Petch Isuzu Sales in Thailand before getting transferred to Zambia where he stayed four years.

"It's in Zambia where I got to really polish my English," said Sakata, who despite his denials, speaks fluent English in spite of the absence of formal education of Shakespeare's language.

Then on Dec. 30, 2004, Sakata was made vice president of Tri Petch. So rapid was his advance that in April 2005, he was finally installed president of Tri Petch.

"Trust has always been the key to success of any man, any business," said Sakata. "Me and my staff, we trust each other. Isuzu and our customers, we trust each other. Mitsubishi and Isuzu, they trust each other. Isuzu's success in Thailand in the last 23 years is described in just one word—trust. Without trust, we have nothing."

Sakata, 57, plays tennis and golf.

"I play to a 20-handicap," he said of his golf. "It relaxes me a lot."

Tennis makes me sweat."

Any other key to success, aside from trust, Sakata-san?

"Always do your best in whatever you do," he said. "There is no small job. If you do your best, every job becomes big."

* * *

OVERLOADING. I saw a truck overloaded with plywood collapse at the service road of the South Expressway on March 31, triggering an early morning monstrous jam since most of the piles of wood fell over on SLEX. Things like that don't happen anymore at North Luzon Expressway, thanks to Ping de Jesus' determined effort to ban overloaded trucks at NLE.

* * *

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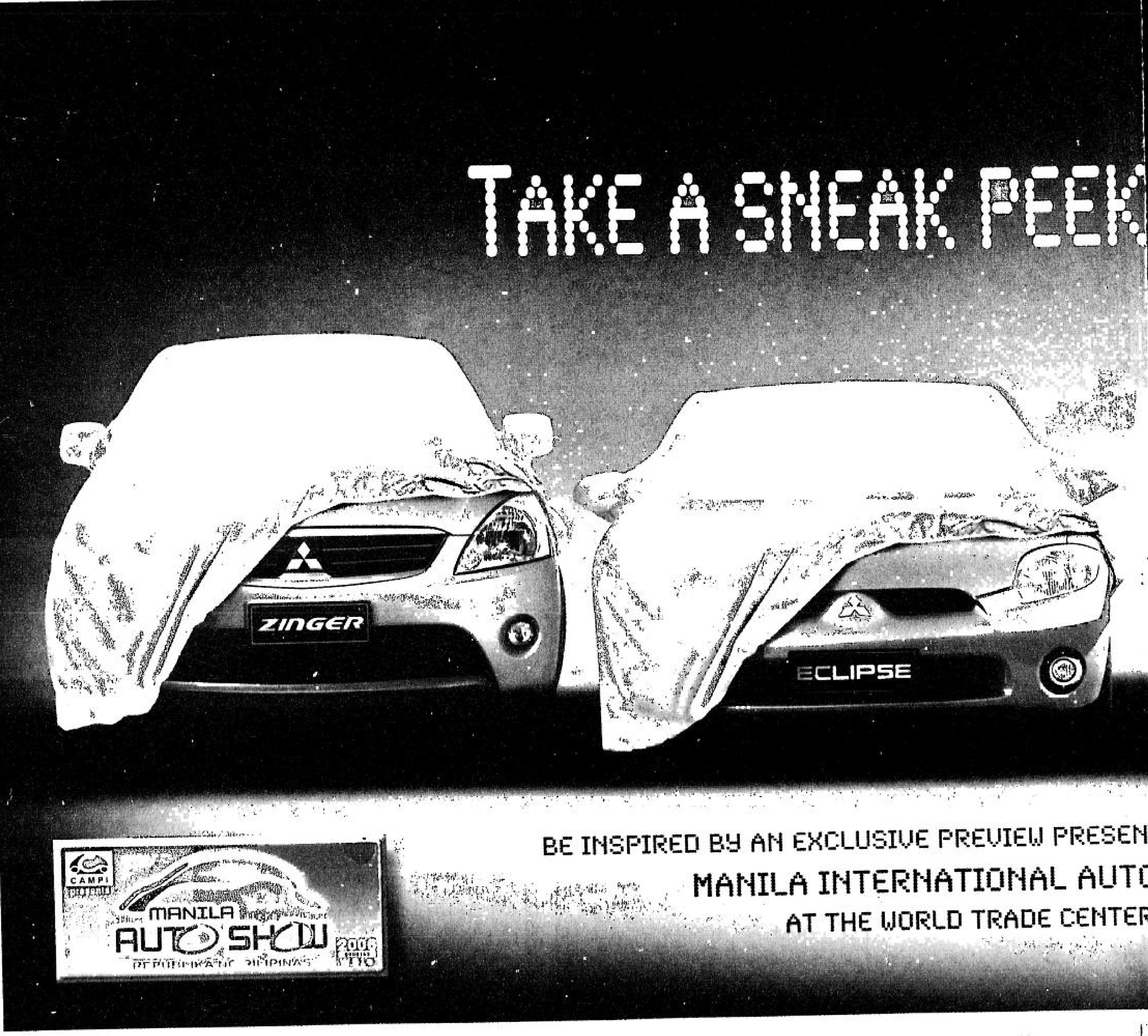

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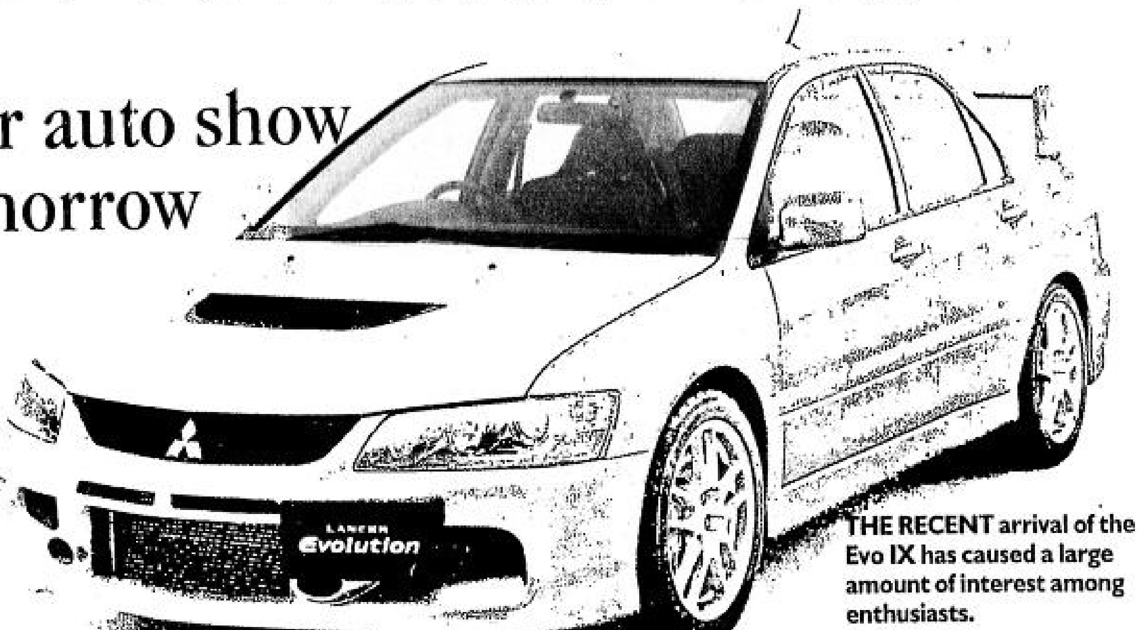
RP's premier auto show kicks off tomorrow

From page B2-1

new Pacifica luxury wagon during the auto show).

Toyota will also make MIAS its venue for the launch of its latest Previa multipurpose vehicle while Nissan Motor Philippines with its luxury crossover SUV, the Murano.



THE RECENT arrival of the Evo IX has caused a large amount of interest among enthusiasts.

Never-before-seen road cars

MIAS visitors should feel privileged as several car manufacturers have agreed to present their respective concept and never-before seen road cars.

Mitsubishi Motor Philippines will showcase its rally heritage with its Dakar-winning Pajero Evolution as well as its Lancer Evolution IX MR and the Eclipse 3.8 V6.

Not to be outdone, Ford Group Philippines is set to display its powerful 225 hp Focus ST and Focus DuraTorq that features a state-of-the-art turbo diesel common-rail Injection powerplant.

Mercedes-Benz will preview the future of motoring with its F-Cell, a hydrogen-powered fuel cell car (that makes its own electric power on board instead of relying on batteries) while Isuzu Philippines Corp. will demonstrate its Elf Diesel Hybrid, light-duty fuel-efficient truck that emits an ultra low amount of particulate matter pollutants.

THE FORD Focus ST is one of the finest vehicles to ever sport the blue oval.

TMP will also bring to MIAS, the TF105, Toyota's Formula One car last season that brought them number four honors in the 2005 constructors championship.

Rota, Michelin, A-Toy, Concept One, Makna, Thule and Xenon Bulbs are also expected to display their respective show cars.

Also to be displayed during the MIAS event are the Car Of The Year winners led by Mazda6, the 2.3-liter executive sedan that topped the 2005 batch.

Trans Sport Show all set

AN IMPRESSIVE COLLECTION OF more than 50-trend-setting contemporary show cars as well as meticulously restored classic and vintage milestone cars will be featured at Trans Sports Show. These cars are the main crowd drawer of the event and all of them will compete in the Trans Sport Show Cup open class car competition.

The show is all set to unfold on April 26. It is scheduled until April 30 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

Love affair with the auto

Show organizer TradeShow International Inc. believes that with the success goes the responsibility to continuously educate and entertain its loyal followers and also, the new breed of car enthusiasts with an informative-filled motoring event.

Some more notable car entries this year are a 1969 Ford Mustang Mach 1 from last year's Best of Show winner Alex Isip; 1978 Ferrari 308 GTB from Automagic; 1958 Mercedes-Benz 190SL roadster from Erwin Estacio Auto Restoration; 1966 Corvette Stingray coupé from Red 65 Paintnix Auto Restoration; 1957 Bel Air 500 convertible from Route 66; 1956 Porsche 356 Speedster from Autozone; 1951 Mercedes-Benz 220 cabriolet from Alex & Caesar Wongchuking and a 1953 Jaguar XK-120 roadster from DC Autosport.

Trans Sport Show can be credited for improving the level of Filipino craftsmanship in car restoration.

Oldest RP motor club holds auto show

THE AUTOMOBILE Association Philippines, the country's oldest and most prestigious auto club, marks its 75th anniversary this year with a week-long calendar of special events culminating in the first-ever AAP Auto Show from May 12 to 14, club officials said.

Founded on May 25, 1931, the AAP, formerly the Philippine Motor Association, has been designated as the National Auto Club of the Philippines by former President Elpidio Quirino. It is the only entity in the country that issues international driving permits and competition licenses to race drivers.

Activities

As part of its diamond jubilee celebration, the AAP kicked off its activities on Jan. 26 with the Toyota Road Safety Conference at the Dusit Hotel in Makati. Upcoming activities include a Vintage Cars Parade (May 7), Conference on Alternative Fuels (May 8), launch of the UP Road Safety Zone (May 9) and the 1st AAP Invitational Golf Tournament (May 10, Valley Golf and Country Club).

The club will hold a thanksgiving Mass and annual general membership meeting on May 11 at The Forum, PICC on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, where the AAP auto show will also be held from May 12 to 14. Among the highlights of the show is the Denso Karting Championship on May 13.

The AAP auto show will also feature a Gallery of Philippine Motoring, a photo exhibit depicting the history of the AAP and motoring in the Philippines. It will also feature an AAP memorabilia lane that will display a collection of racing cars, racing gears and trophies, among others, of outstanding motorsports personalities.

Sponsors, exhibitors

The AAP auto show thus far has attracted prestigious sponsors led by Petron Corp., Toyota Motors Corp., Lufthansa German Airlines, Philippine Auto Components Inc., Lipovitan, El Rio y Mar Resort, NU 107 and Top Gear.

Early exhibitors include Ford Motor Co. (Libis), Isuzu-Inteco Group, Honda Cars Philippines (Pasig), Petron Corp., Toyota Motors Philippines, SeaOil Petroleum Corp., Robert Bosch Inc., Bridgestone tires, Rapide Auto Services Experts, Kart Plaza Manufacturing/Batangas Racing Circuit, Liftruk International Trading, Ropa Innovative Marketing, Magicmend International Inc., New Triumph G.M. Corp., PBC Car Adapt Inc., Bangkal Pio Autoparts Business Association and Tollways Management Corp.

Cooperating agencies of the AAP Auto Show include the Department of Tourism, Department of Energy, Department of Transportation and Communications, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Land Transportation Office.

Fernando Alonso grabs . . .

From page B2-4

FERNANDO Alonso at Australian GP 2006

prompting officials to bring out the safety car again from laps seven to nine. At the restart, Alonso was able to set a quicker pace from the rest of the field, timing at a consistent pace two seconds faster than anyone else on the racetrack.

Michael Schumacher's race came to a vicious end as his Ferrari crashed into a wall, bringing out the safety car for the third time, initiating a series of pit stops for the teams trying to gain a strategic advantage.

Another incident involving the Toro Rosso of Tonio Luizzi caused mayhem on the track, bringing out the safety car yet again. All the lead that Alonso was able to establish was crushed because of the interruptions that have happened in the race.

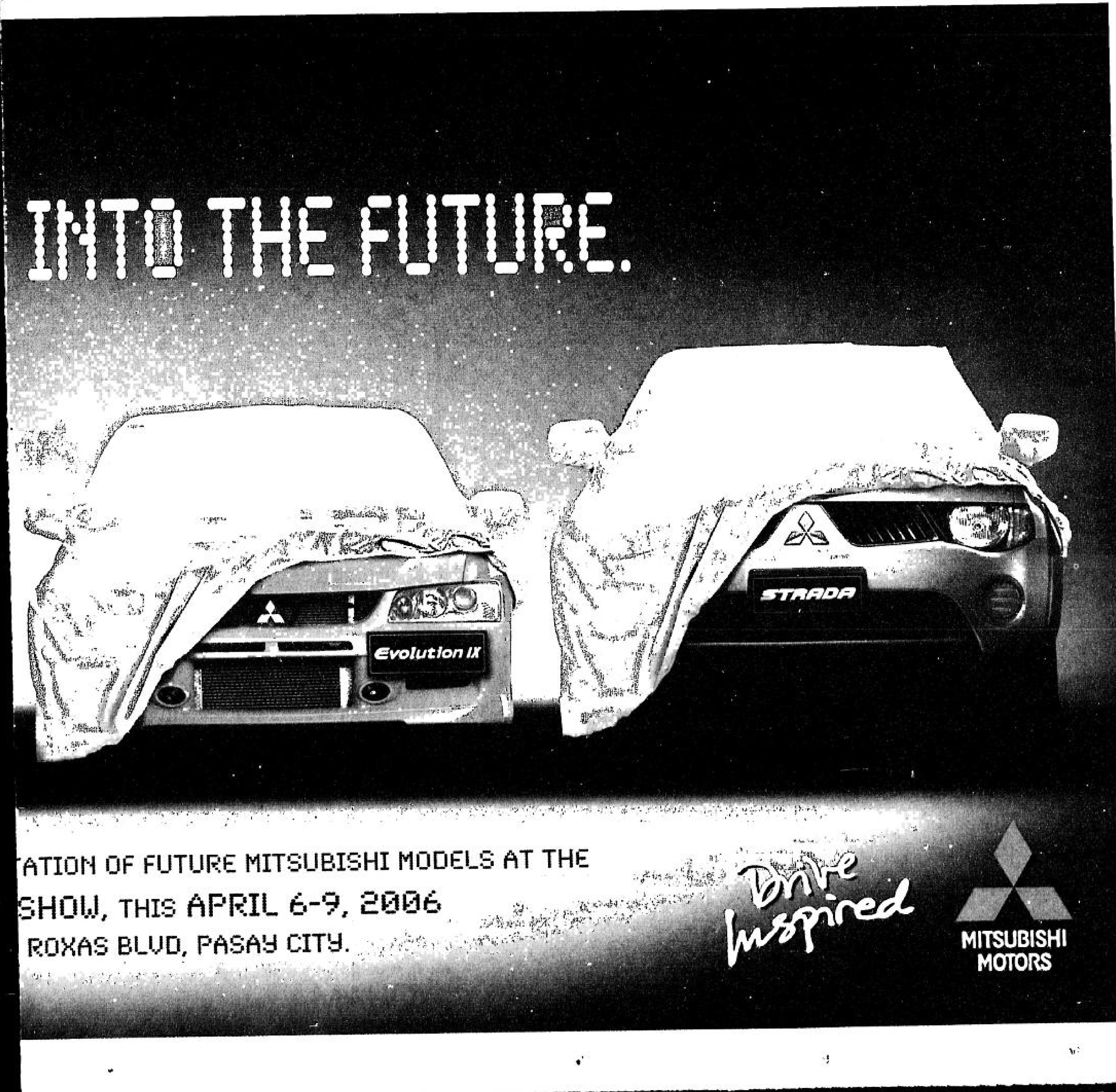
In spite of this, Alonso was able to execute excellent tire and engine management skills through the four restarts and throughout the race, which gave him and team Mild Seven Renault a clean run to victory. The Renaults seemed to perform better in heating up the tires, generating more grip on the racetrack. Alonso's drive in the Australian GP was described as perfect for a world champion.

Dominant lead

Team Mild Seven Renault now has a dominant lead in the Constructors' points with 42, followed by McLaren with 23 and Ferrari with 15. Defending world champion Fernando Alonso has scored 28 points out of a possible 30 for the driver's championship this year. There are 15 more races this season.

In three weeks, the Formula One action heads to Europe for the San Marino GP. "So far, we have shown we are strong in all conditions on all tracks. But Imola is a very different challenge, and we must have a calm approach, because we know it will be more difficult than ever. As always we'll be arriving with one aim, and that will be to continue our perfect run of victories for the Mild Seven Renault F1 Team," said Alonso after his victory in Australia.

The third consecutive victory this season for the Mild Seven Renault F1 Team clearly demonstrates that they have the pace and the passion of true world champions. This consistency shows that Team Mild Seven Renault is now, and is indeed, a cut above the rest.



Music and motors: a soundtrack to driving

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

IS THERE ANY WAY TO TALK about cars and music and not explore the concept of the ultimate driving song? The discussion and debate about this topic runs volumes; the lists are quite predictably innumerable. All that really matters is what individually moves us, either emotionally or spiritually, and allows us to enjoy our motoring better.

Wagner's "Flight of the Valkyrie" may work well for you and your European GT's attempt to more than double the legal speed limit. For most mortals though, while the equipment might be a tad more down-market, I can assure you that the effects of a good driving song are just as influential and lasting.

First encounter

My first encounter with a driving song was Tears for Fears' "Everybody Wants to Rule the World," hearing it for the first time while tooling around the foothills of Honolulu, Hawaii in my uncle's early model Hyundai Excel hatch. So profound was the combination of the punchy little hatch, the twisty mountain roads and Roland Orzabal's haunting declaration, "Welcome to your life, there's no turning back."

The result has been that the all too familiar looping guitar riff has started a thousand of my own drives, as it never fails to give me goose bumps, continues to bring me back to that summer of '50s-style drive-up fast food, arcade games at the local pizza joint and triggers memories of a whole lot driving. While I was too young to do the driving myself, the sense of road trip that this song elicits from me is very powerful. My fetish for the hatchback is also probably and quite reluctantly also attributable to this episode of my life.

A few years later and behind the wheel of my red 1.3-liter injected Sentra, the anthem would be "Under the Bridge" by the Red Hot Chili Peppers. This tune just worked so well during many late drives from Alabang, so much so that I would cue the song and start the guitar intro just as I merged onto the South Luzon Expressway. The song (is it track No. 11 on the Blood Sugar Sex Magik album?) would get a final reset as I crested the Mantrade flyover for the sweeping right to Edsa.

I did this so that I would generally reach the song's crescendo, with the backup chorus blasting, "Under the bridge downtown, is where I drew some blood," just as my sedan began its run on the then immaculate tarmac of the Guadalupe bridge. The potent combination of the speed and the masterful guitar work of "on and off" Chili's guitar man John Frusciante made me so intoxicated that I kept thinking I could keep up with the Galant Gti's and Bluebirds that ruled Manila's early '90s streets after midnight. That, of course, never happened.

Fourteen summers on and the pattern of memorable experience, reinforced by a good song and an interesting car continues. Up Dharma Down's Fragmented album has its own playlist and is constantly broadcasted off my iPod and its RoadTrip. It's just so convenient that the tracks run the gamut of human emotion and driving experiences. "The World Is Our Playground and We Will Always Be Home" and "Hiwaga" help dissipate the stress of our chaotic, crowded city streets. The steady beats and the lilting, laid-back vocals have, more than once, kept me from blowing my top and giving in to road rage.

Controlled aggression

"Pag-Agos" and "June" summon the image of the long, if not lazy, drives that many of us will go through this summer. For the more motivated motorist, who would not want to lap the Subic or BRC tracks with "Malikmata" or "Maybe" in the background? The building, energetic temper compels one to achieve speed but only in a manner as cohesive and disciplined as the music itself—a Zen-like expression of controlled aggression. I'll admit to giving in to my age but my Jazz seems to be a nicer place after finally being able to get my hands on the disc.

Rather than point you in the direction of a specific genre, sub-culture or a particular artist, I ask the readers to find music that works for them. A steady supply of personally affective tunes will go a long way in providing a significant soundtrack to your own driving. Someone once suggested that Brit "ashram rockers" Kulashaker and their mantric "Govinda" worked best for them. I just looked her in the eye and said, "Whatever works for you," as I personally prefer driving to "Mystical Machine Gun." Like I've said a million times, whatever moves you—and your drive.

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GIANCARLO Fisichella at Australian GP 2006

AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

Fernando Alonso grabs victory for Renault

FERNANDO ALONSO WAS ABLE to grab victory for Mild Seven Renault Formula One team in the Australian Grand Prix, despite having to endure four safety car periods throughout an action-packed race.

His teammate Giancarlo Fisichella was able to finish a heroic fifth, after being relegated to last place on the start of the race.

One crazy race

Alonso described the race in Albert Park, Melbourne as a "little bit crazy"—with numerous incidents happening all across the grid, even before the start of the race, and all the way to the very last lap of the GP.

"I've got to say that this season is already shaping up to be a lot of fun. That was one crazy race, but I enjoyed every lap of it, even though I didn't have a clue what was going on for most of it," Alonso admits.

Fisichella had to face an early disappointment as he was forced to start the race from the tail-end of the order after his R26 stalled on the first scheduled race start. He had to give up his second place on the starting line, and instead, had to start in the pit-lane. This opened up an opportunity for Alonso on third place to challenge pole-sitter Jenson Button at the start of the race.

"The start was perfect, and I nearly got past Jenson. But I locked my brakes so I had to settle in just behind him for the first lap. We had a good fight though, as I always do with Jenson. He's a tough racer, but he's always very fair. I was disappointed that he fell off so quickly in the race, as it's always more fun to have some hard racing with another one of the guys who's willing to put up a fight," the Spanish superstar continues.

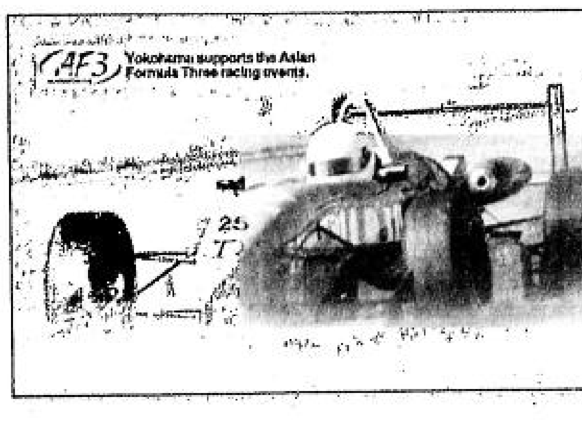
Going for the goal

Traction was one of the greatest challenges the racers had to face in Australia. Many teams were struggling for grip on the racetrack. The safety car was deployed after the Ferrari of Felipe Massa slammed into a wall early in the race. As the track was cleared and the safety car was pulling in at the end of lap three, the restart gave Alonso an opening to dash ahead of Button to take the race lead.

A few laps later, Christian Klein's Red Bull hit the wall as he was approaching turn nine,

FERNANDO/ B2-3

ALONSO celebrating after winning the Australian GP 2006



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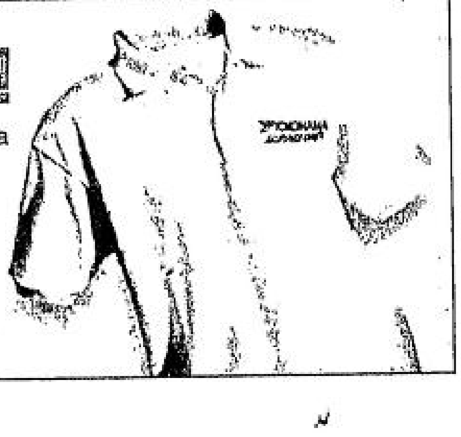

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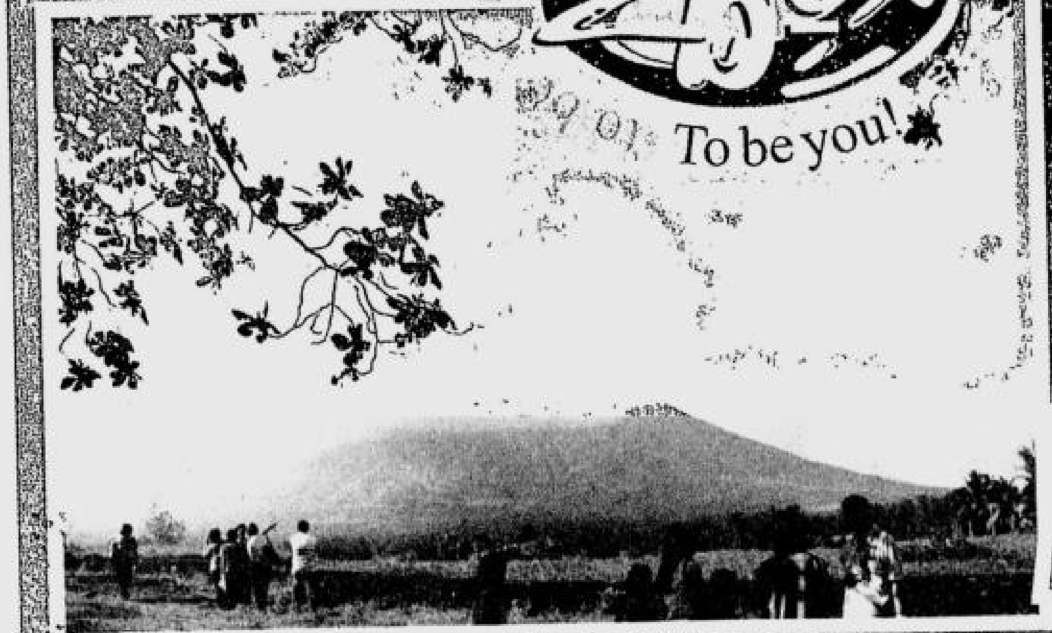

Have a WOW Summer

Part 1

We at 2bU! love playing tourists in the Philippines. Why not? There are so many places to discover and experience in our country. And we think you'll have a blast exploring our many islands, too. So when we go out-of-town on assignment—or even on vacation—we keep our eyes open for places and things we think you'd also love.

Do keep them in mind as you make your plans this summer vacation. Think of us as travel agents with one agenda: your enjoyment.

Here are some of our finds in Palawan and Bicol, for starters.

Get ready to pack, folks!

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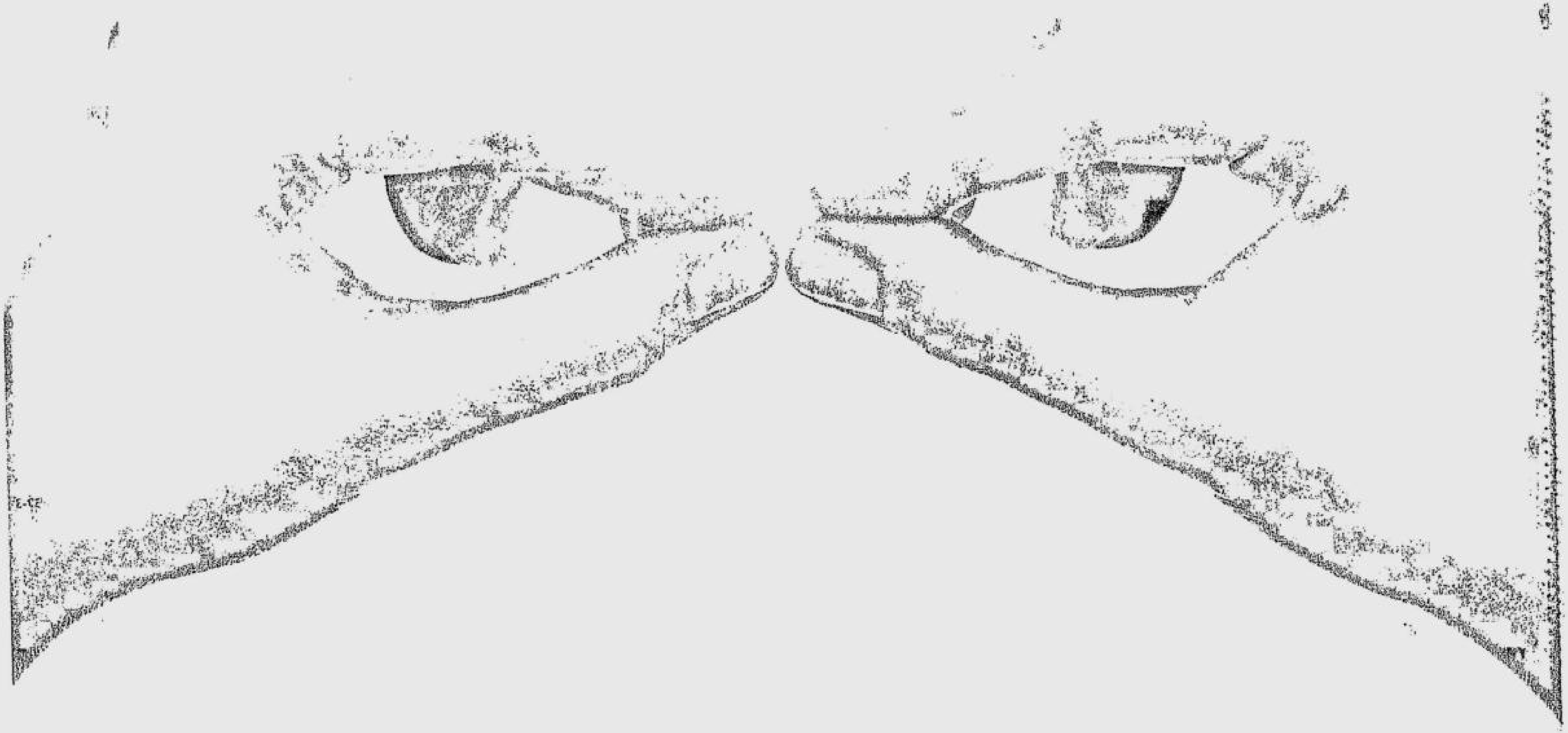

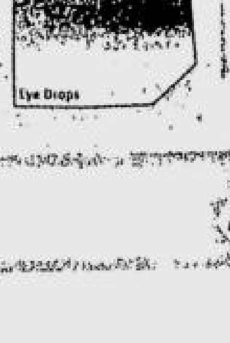

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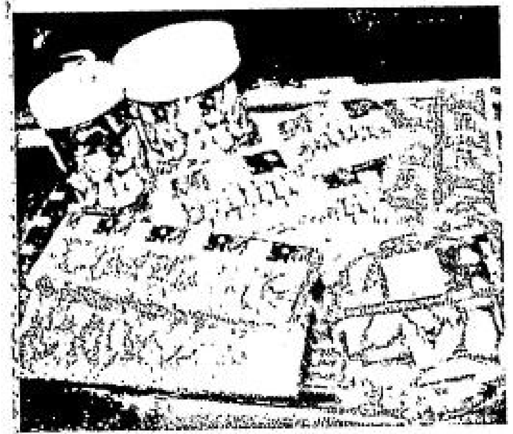
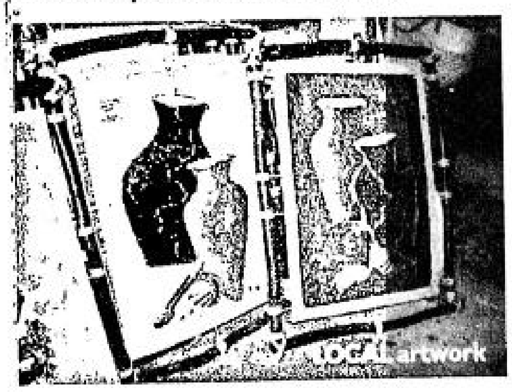
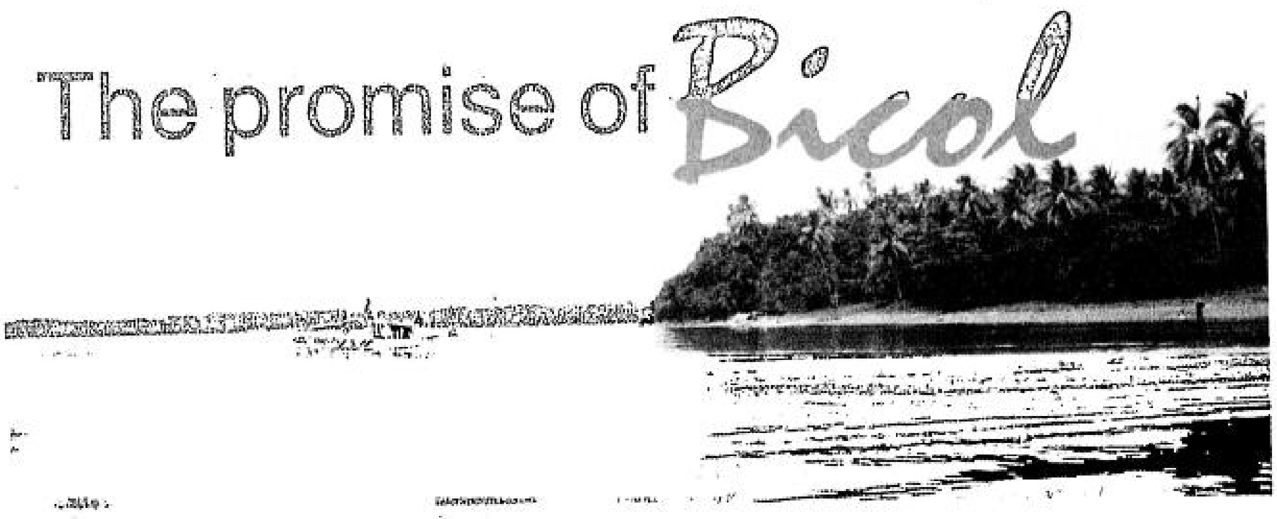


THE BEST *pili* nut delicacies in Bicol



LOCAL artwork

The promise of Bicol



WATERS of Donsol, Sorsogon, frequented by whale sharks

From page C4

nants and emphasis on the second syllable, is the Bicolanos' beloved whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*).

A high concentration of these creatures frequents the waters of Donsol, Sorsogon, an hour's drive from Legazpi City.

Despite its enormity—the largest can grow up to 18 meters and weigh up to 24 tons—this marine gem is gentle, docile, and feeds only on plankton.

Swimming among *butanding* is thus generally safe.

The Donsol Tourism Office requires visitors to register, attend a brief orientation on whale shark interaction, and set off accompanied by an able crew of *butanding* interaction officers (BIO), a spotter and two others to man the boat.

Although these whale sharks can be spotted in Sorsogon waters the whole year round, there is no guarantee of seeing them unless the search is conducted during the February-April peak season.

Searching for *butanding* is best done in the morning when the water is clearer. On peak season, one can spot as many as a dozen or more of the gentle giants.

Grumpy weather cut short our whale shark interaction, but not before we snorkeled two meters above one with white spots that seem to luminesce under water.

Swimming close to the *butanding* was an overwhelming, not to mention humbling, experience. To merely wait for a glimpse of the creature from the surface would be a terrible waste of opportunity.

Matching the Bicolanos' fondness for *butanding* is their devotion to the region's patroness, Our Lady of Peñafrancia.

Religious festivals such as September's Peñafrancia Festival highlight the yearly calendar of events in the region.

Devotees continue to flock to Naga City, a center for pilgrimage, in order to pay homage to the patroness.

The people's religiosity is likewise evident in the preservation of historic churches, among them Albay's Our Lady of the Gate Church in Daraga, Oas Church in Oas, St. Dominic Guzman Church in Santo Domingo, St. John the Baptist Church in Camalig and Our Lady of Assumption Parish in Guinobatan.

Passion for 'sili,' 'gata'

A trip to Bicol, of course, is incomplete without a taste of regional cuisine.

It is almost preposterous to stay in the province without sampling variations of the popular Bicol Express and *pinangat*, premium samples of Bicolano passion for *sili* (chili) and *gata* (coconut milk) in cooking.

Longganisa de Guinobatan, a favorite breakfast fare, should not be missed either. The small sausages, sold P3-P3.50 apiece at the Guinobatan market, taste a little sour and salty and, when cooked the right way, become delectably crunchy.

If vacation plans don't include trips to the wet market, however, eating Bicolano food is as easy as stopping over at Small Talk Café along Doña Aurora Street in Legazpi.

The quaint establishment owned by Didette Peralta is one of the most sought-after dining venues in the city.

The café offers common meat, seafood and vegetable dishes as well as fusion cuisine, a combination of western and homegrown cooking Peralta developed.

Picking 'pili'

Although Bicol is famous for *pili* products, poor-quality variants also abound.

Pili nut confections are sold in most markets, groceries and stores in Bicol, so ask your tour guide where to buy the best kind.

A well-trusted brand is Albay Central Pili Nut Candy, which operates shop at 873 Rizal St., Old Albay District, Legazpi City.

Products are sold at a slightly higher price but rest assured the *pili* snack you buy has the right crunch and flavor.

For eager shopaholics, Satellite Market at Tahao Road across Legaspi City Terminal will satiate even the greatest urge to splurge on souvenirs and *pasalubong*.

A network of stalls display an assortment of *abaca* bags, home décor, rugs, handmade paper products, indigenous materials, shirts and small souvenir items, most of which are very affordable.

Bargaining is almost always an option.

After all, like the entire Bicol hiatus, it's the pursuit and the strategy behind it that makes the experience a lot more rewarding.

E-mail the author at fkatigbak@inquirer.com.ph

The place: Bicol region, home of majestic Mayon and gentle 'butanding'

How to get there: A frugal traveler can take the 12-hour bus trip from Manila. By air, it takes about 55 minutes to reach Legazpi, Albay, either from Manila or Cebu.

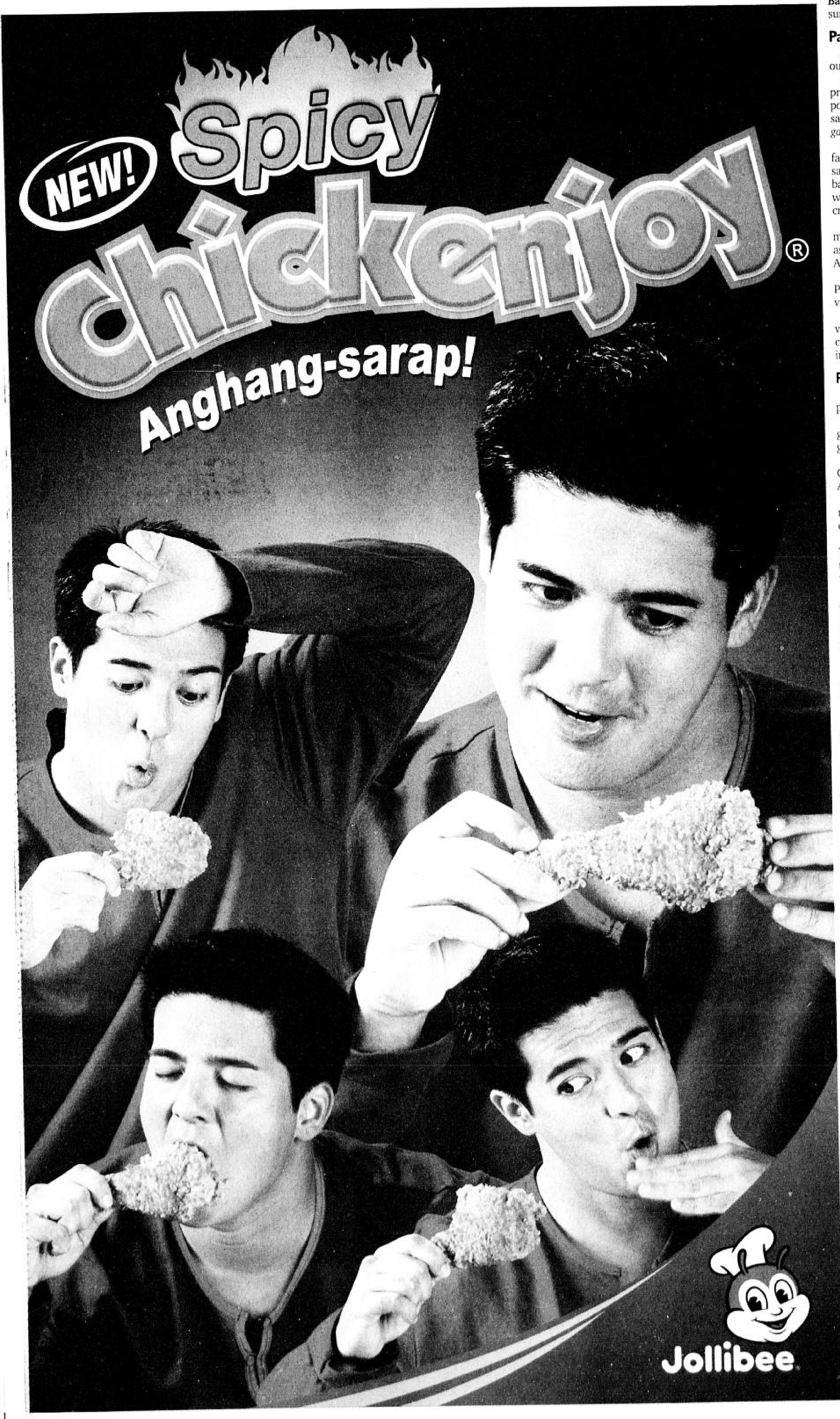
What to bring: It's better to come prepared with extra cash. As an emerging eco-tourism destination, Bicol has yet to really regulate the fees of tourist attraction sites and activities. One can always haggle though. Keep smaller denominations for frequent jeepney or tricycle rides.
Don't forget to throw in swimming gear, essential gadgets like cell phone and digicam, plus a disposable underwater camera.

What to do: Go on a rolling tour of historical landmarks and churches. Join any of the eco-tourism activities and festivals listed in Bicol's official website. Then swim with *butanding* in Donsol!

What to eat: Anything on the menu of Small Talk Café at Doña Aurora Street in Legazpi. Visit the row of Capitol Annex Outdoor Restaurants.

What to buy: There's an array of very, very affordable *abaca* products, adorable souvenirs, artwork and shirts at Satellite Market. Buy *pili* nut delicacies from Albay Central Pili Nut Candy shop.

Other tips: Travel light but bring an extra lightweight bag for shopping goodies. Most establishments in Albay close earlier than those in Manila. Try to be up the earliest time possible to meet your itinerary and accomplish all activities. Know the jeepney and tricycle rates. Contact a local tour operator if you, or any of your friends and family, are uncomfortable touring the region on your own. Contact Royal Quest Tours' Richard and Nhing Paraguya (0918-3325566) for tour inquiries.



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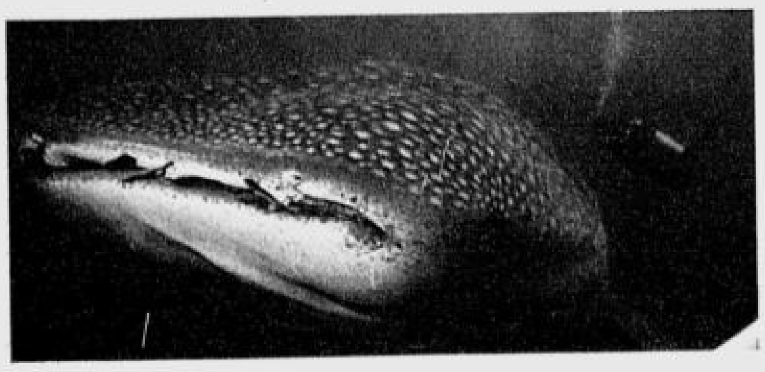
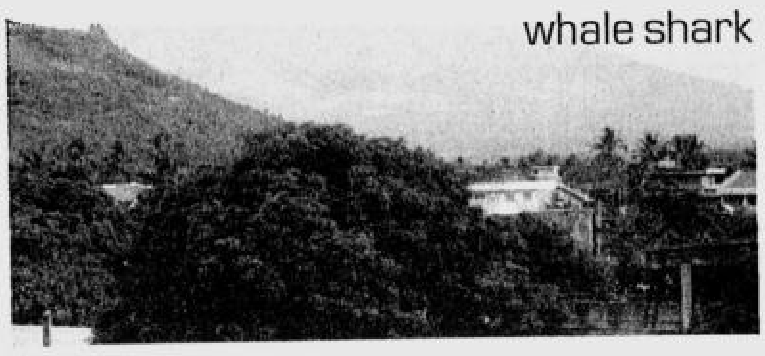
The promise of Bicol

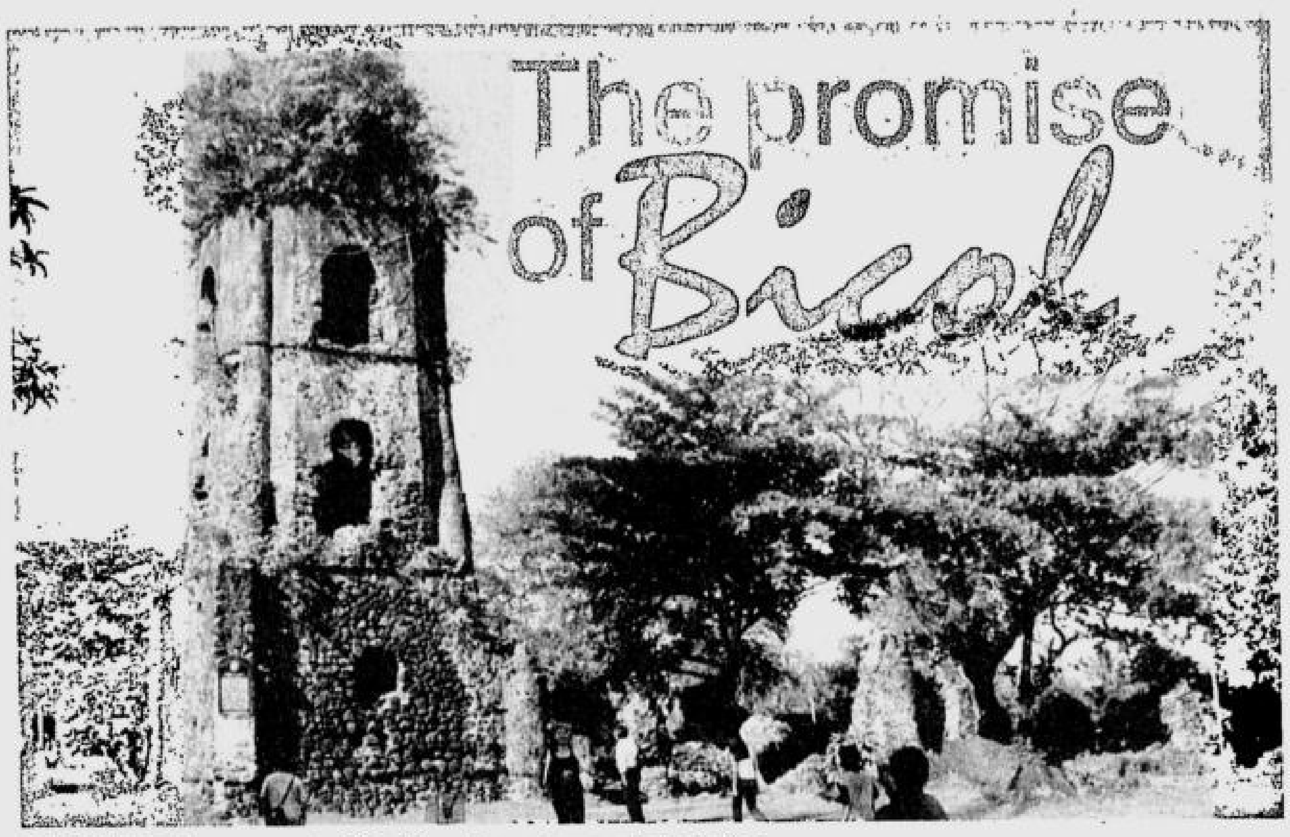


DON'T be fooled by appearances. The *butanding* is a docile creature that feeds on plankton. PDI PHOTO

The region is home to the world's most perfect volcano cone and the gentle whale shark



VIEW from the window of the author's room at Hotel Venezia



CAGSAWA Ruins, remnants of Mt. Mayon's worst-recorded eruption

Text and photos by Fran Katigbak

BICOL IS HAVEN TO MANY WONDERful things elusive, especially toward visitors and tourists unfamiliar with the peninsula.

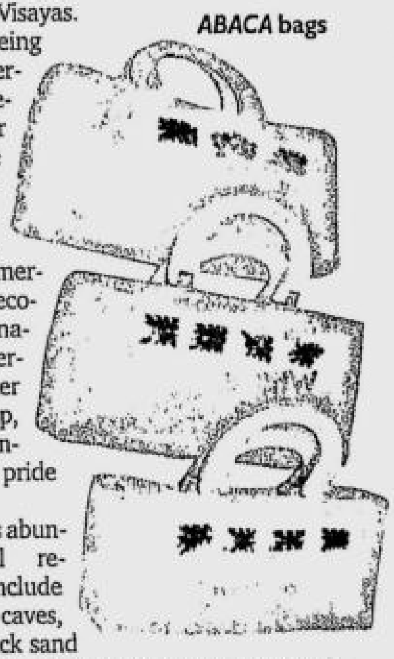
Why elusive?

To begin with, a trip to the region from Manila takes a grueling 12-hour bus ride by the frugal traveler, while those coming from the Visayas used to have no other choice except the mandatory Cebu-Manila-Legazpi flight itinerary.

Direct Cebu-Legazpi trips were recently introduced by Air Philippines, along with the airline's Manila-Legazpi flights, to aid Bicol in opening its doors to the Visayas.

Perhaps being the most underdeveloped region is another factor for the province's elusive charm. But only Bicol's rapid emergence as an eco-tourism destination could determine whether the rural setup, or the lack of infrastructure, is pride or bane.

The region's abundant natural resources include mountains, caves, waterfalls, black sand beaches and marine life. Of these, two prominent gems make Bicol distinct from other local eco-tourism hotspots.



ABACA bags

One of these is famous for its near-perfect cone. It majestically stands at the center of Albay Province.

Mt. Mayon is visible even from neighboring provinces and looms over the Cagsawa Ruins, site of the remains of the volcano's worst-recorded eruption, which has become many a photographers' favorite snapshot of the province.

Thick, stubborn clouds veil Mayon's tip on certain days though, as was the case during this writer's trip to Bicol last month.

After waiting two whole days for a glimpse of the entire mountain, we finally saw it "unveiled" early morning of the last day of the visit.

Getting a view, it turned out was as simple as looking out the window of our room on the topmost floor of Hotel Venezia.

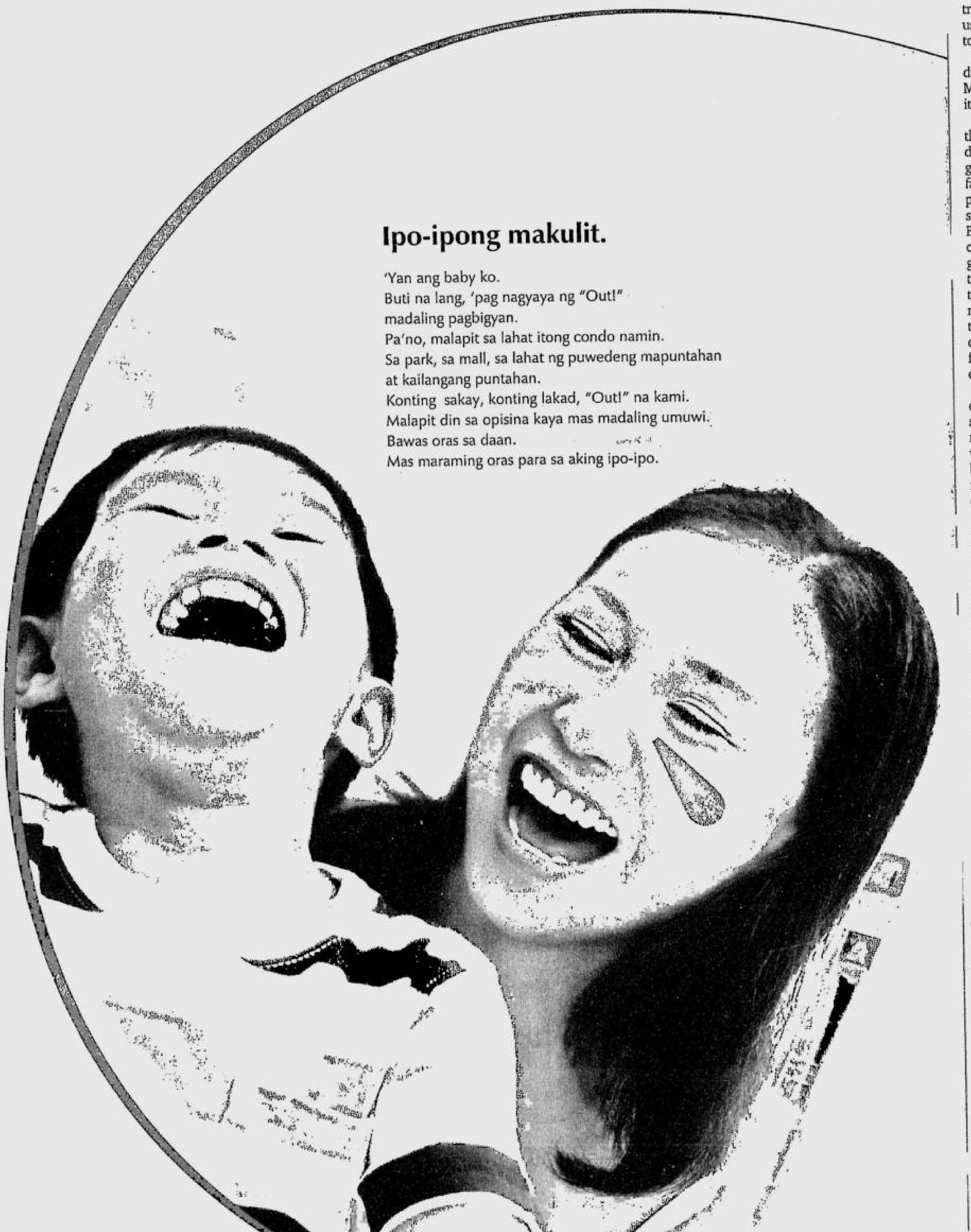
Gentle giant

"Butanding," pronounced with strong conso-

THE PROMISE/ C2

CHARMING interiors of Small Talk Café

QUAINT, most sought-after dining venue in Legazpi



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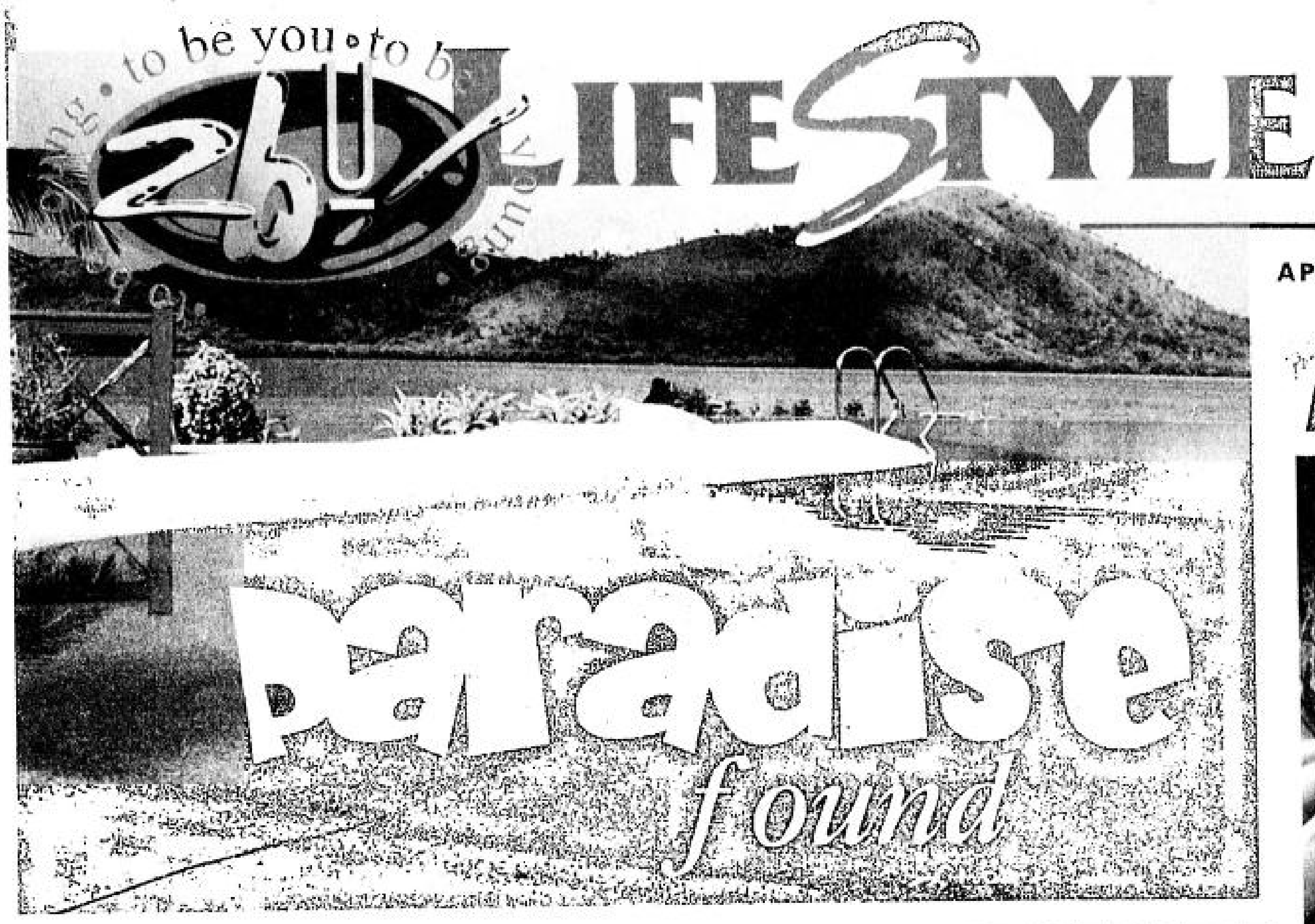

A PERFECT dip at El Rio's infinity pool

Dimakya island is a good place to start appreciating the thrill of Palawan

Text and photos by Zee Castro
2bU! Correspondent

The place:

Club Paradise, Dimakya Island, Coron, Palawan

How to get there:

Fly to Busuanga via Asian Spirit or South East Asian Airlines. The trip from Manila will take roughly an hour. Once at the airport, you will board a jeepney and travel through rustic roads that snake through lush green hills. After the 30-minute ride, you will reach the modest pier, and then board an outrigger boat that will finally take you to Club Paradise.

What to bring:

A Smart SIM card. When 2bU! went for a visit, Smart was the only operable telecommunication provider in that part of Palawan.

PARADISE/ D2

Sylvia Cazcio
Cooking, Baking and Decorating Classes

APRIL COOKING SCHEDULE

April 7, Friday, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm BASIC BAKING
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April 8, Saturday, 8:30 to 12:30 pm EASTER DELIGHTS: Learn to make and decorate Sugar and Chocolate Eggs and put them in your own Chocolate Basket HANDS ON, P 1800

April 8, Saturday, 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm SCOTTISH AFTERNOON TEA Enjoy an afternoon of baking traditional tea sweets and enjoy a cup of tea while sampling your own concoctions: Shortbread, Oat Cakes, Dundee Almond Cake, Cream Scones, Cheddar Muffins HANDS ON, P 1800

April 10, Monday, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm MASTERING CHEESECAKES: Learn the essentials of producing perfect cheesecakes both baked and unbaked, different crusts and toppings: Classic New York Cheesecake, Maida Heatter's Bullseye Cheesecake, Blueberry Cheesecake, No Bake Cheesecake HANDS ON, P 2000

April 10, Monday, 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm AUTHENTIC PEKING DUCK: Learn how to prepare one of China's great culinary creations in your own home, from the purchase and preparation of the duck to the making of the pancakes. P2200

Apirl 11, Tuesday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm ECLAIRS and CREAM PUFFS: Turn Pale Choux paste into sweet and savory delights: also included are Profiteroles, Beignet de Jambon, Gougere, Fruit Coulis HANDS ON, P 1800

April 18, Wednesday, 8:30 am – 12:00 nn Argentine Steakhouse: Churrasco, Gambas alla Parrila, Chimichurri, Papas al Horno HANDS ON, P2000

April 18, Tuesday, 2:30 – 5:30 pm, NEW YORK STEAKHOUSE: Learn the techniques of cooking the perfect steak: Steak au Poivre with Cognac Cream Sauce, Grilled Pork Chop with Bourbon Mustard Glaze, Cesar Salad and Truffled Mashed Potato HANDS ON, P2200

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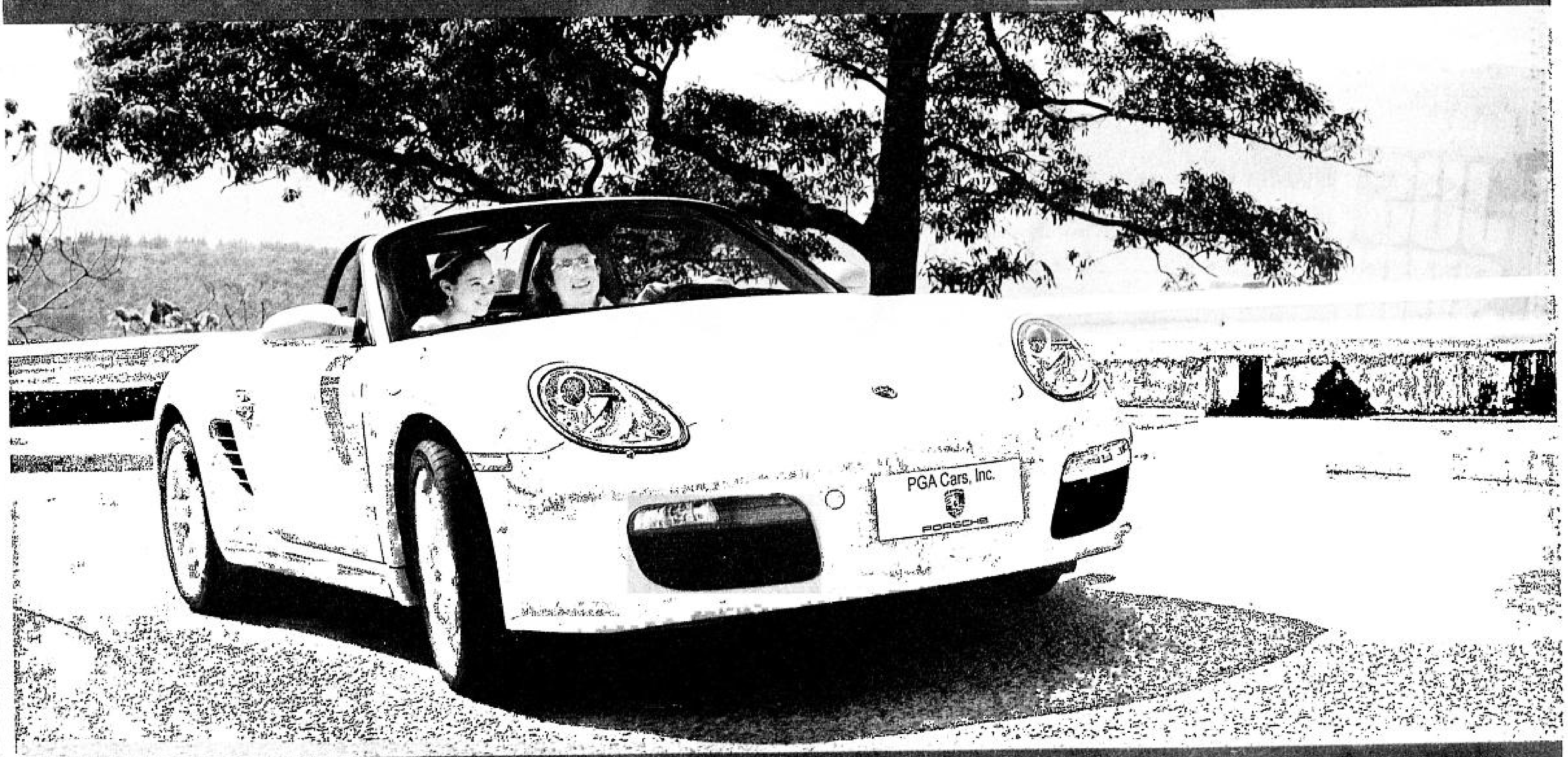

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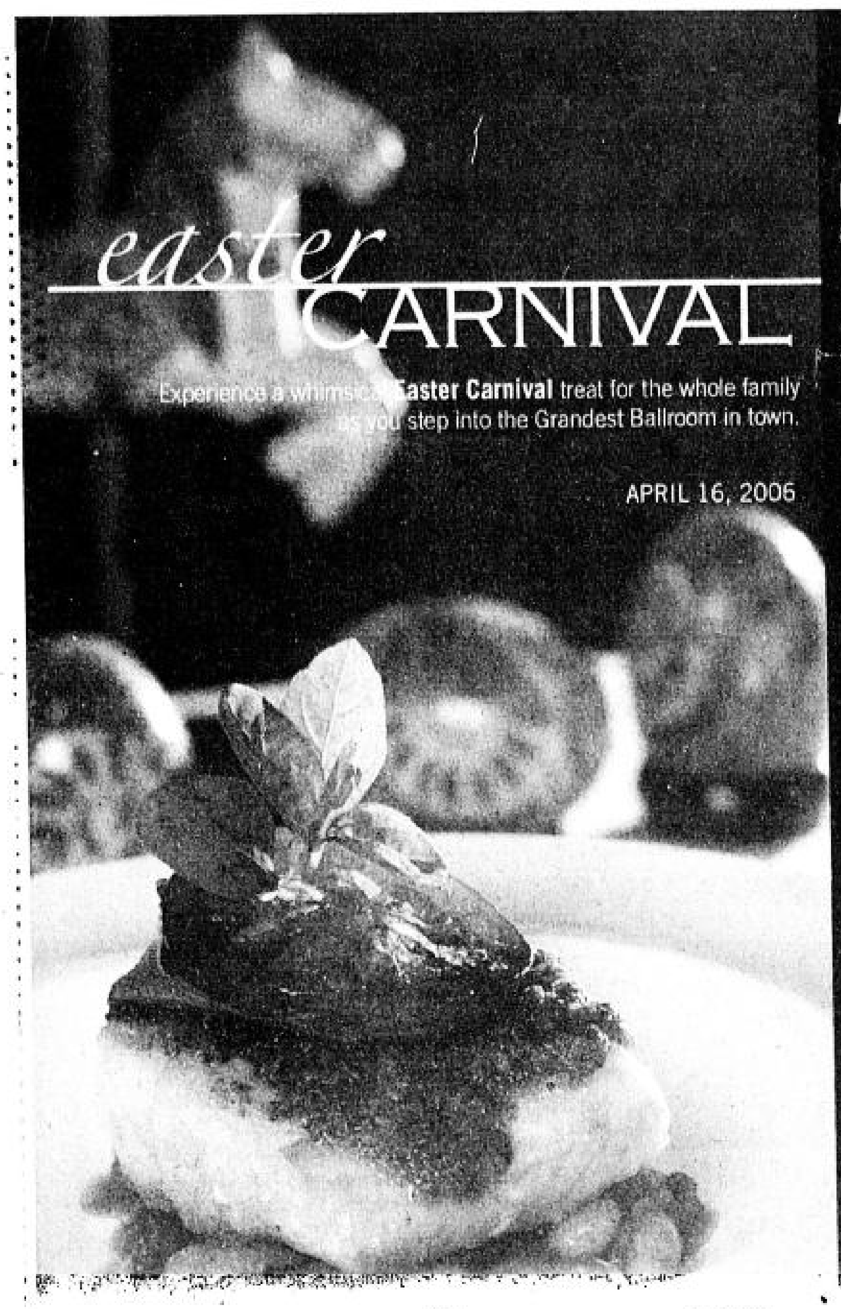

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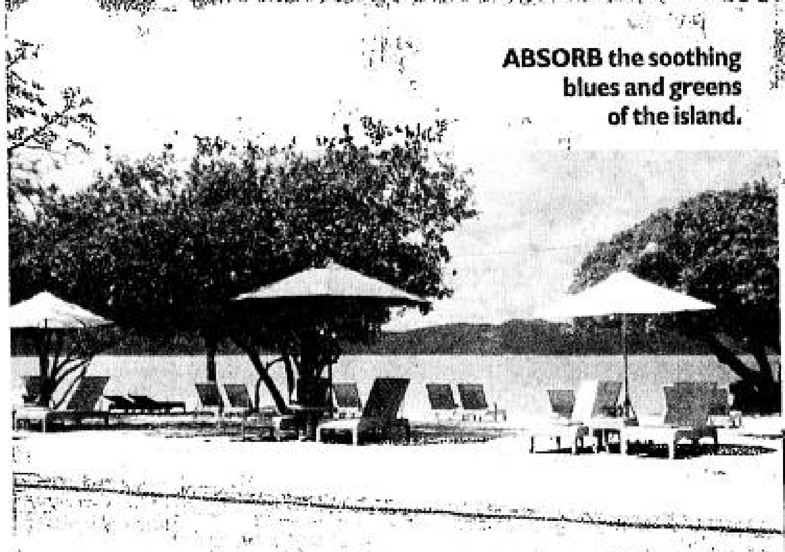


ABSORB the soothing blues and greens of the island.

From page D1

A waterproof bag. Better to keep your belongings safe and dry while you're off boating or just lounging about in the shore.

An underwater/waterproof camera. Whether you'll be snorkeling about to look for clown fish, or paddling about in a kayak, a waterproof camera is best to capture these fun-filled moments.

Digicam and memory cards to take lots of photos with. Aside from the goods available at the gift shop, photos are the best souvenir from your Palawan trip as collecting seashells and bottling their white powdery sand is damaging to the environment and, thus strictly prohibited.

What to do:

A trip to Club Paradise will really let you feel the glamour of resort living. Aside from lounging about and enjoying the sun and sand, relish the wonderful Palawan scenery. Club Paradise offers various activities for visitor's enjoyment.

Dive! Beginners can go snorkeling at Club Paradise's House Reef. It's easily accessible and requires a shore entry off Dimakya Island. You will see an abundance of fish, bountiful coral beds and sponges.

There is also a seagrass area which serves as feeding ground for green turtles and *dugong* or sea cow. (which usually appear around June to September).

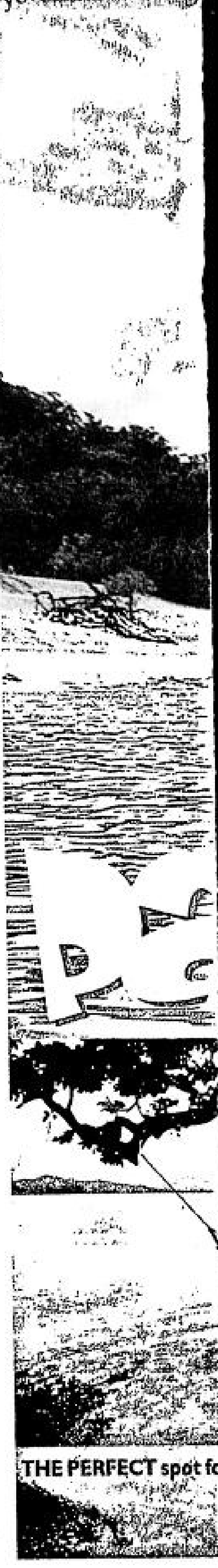
More experienced divers can choose from a handful of site destinations. The most popular wreck dive site is the Kyokuzan Maru, a Japanese freighter from World War II. It can be reached by boat in 45 minutes. Dives can be arranged at the Dugong Dive Center.

Island hop. One must-go-to is the Isla Walang Lang-Aw ("Island with No Trees"). A romantic dinner can be set up on the powdery white-sand beach of this enthralling uninhabited island! A lot of marriage proposals have been arranged in this beautiful location!

Another option is the Coron Island Tour, where you will visit the picturesque Cayangan Lake, the Maquinit Hot Springs, and take a trip through the quaint town of Coron.

Safari savvy. You arrange a trip to the Calauit Wildlife Safari. Calauit Island is the Philippines' premiere wildlife safari where various African animals such as giraffes, zebras and impalas, as well as Palawan endemic animals such as mousedeer, Calamian deer and bearcats roam freely. The tour takes about five to six hours, and costs $42 per person.

Resort hop. For the sports enthusiasts, El Rio Y Mar is perfect spot for you. The resort is 20 minutes away by boat from Dimakya Island. El Rio Y Mar offers activities such as banana-boat rides, ringo tube, kayaking, waterskiing and windsurfing, among others. Rates start at $10. You won't find jet skis, however, for the resort is very keen on making sure the natural environment will not be damaged.



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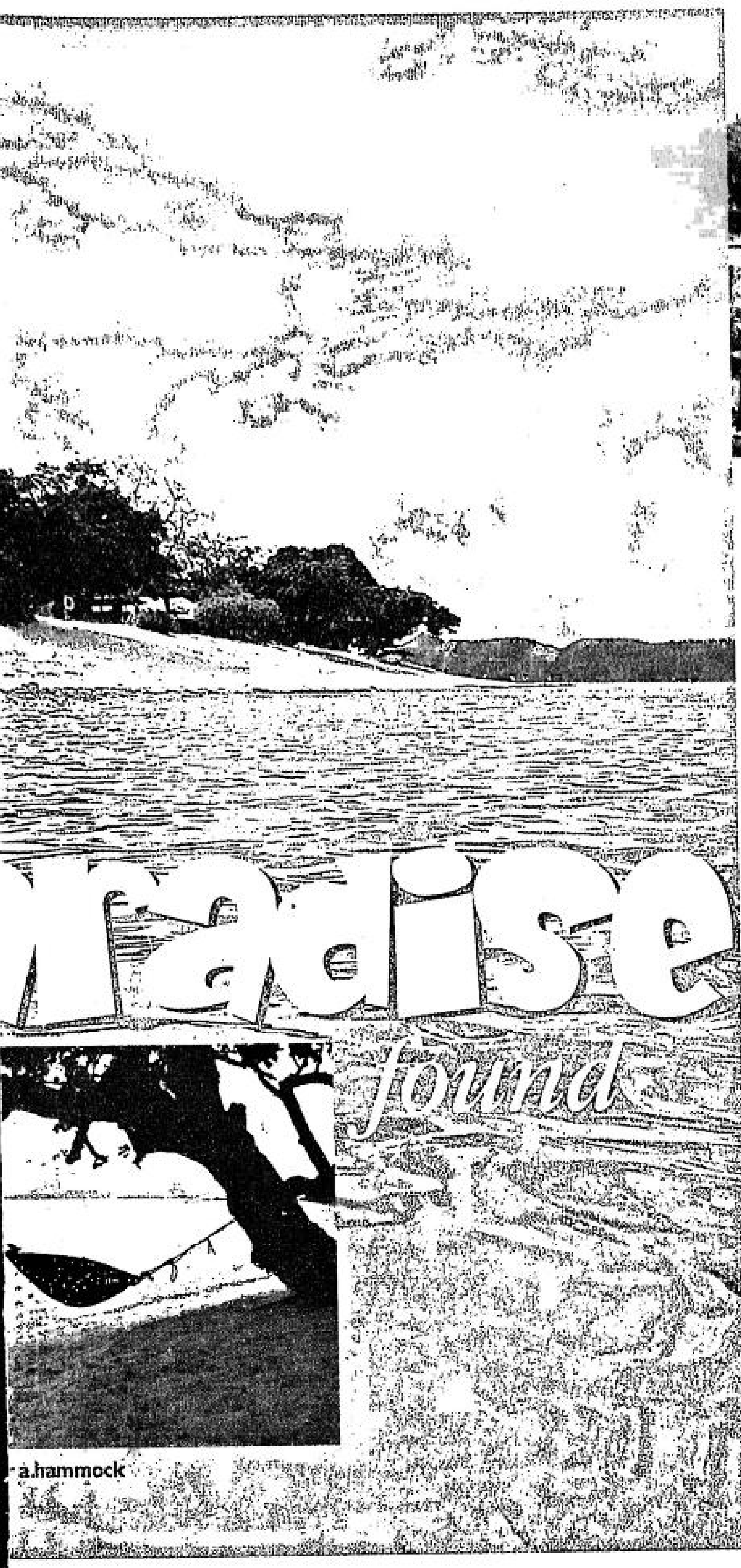
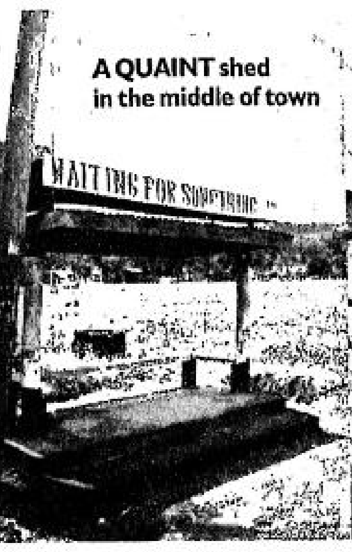
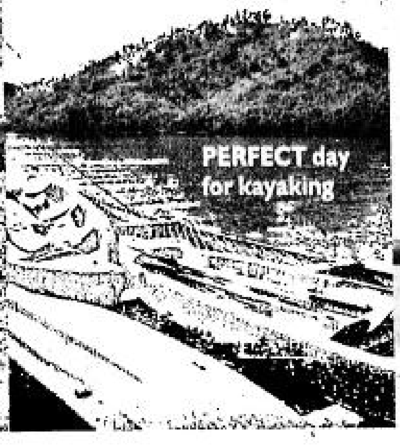


a hammock



A QUAINT shed in the middle of town



PERFECT day for kayaking

EL RIO Y Mar Resort, Club Paradise's Aqua Sports Center

I FOUND the end of the rainbow in Palawan!

What to eat:

Club Paradise's Kamalig Restaurant offers a scrumptious buffet. From Filipino food to International fare, you can surely find the perfect dish to suit your palate.

What to buy:

The Sari-Sari gift shop offers interesting Palawan-made handicrafts such as rainmakers, wood carvings and such.

Other tips:

Book way in advance! The Beachfront Cottages are the most sought-after accommodations in Club Paradise. Regular guests even make reservations at the resort for their return visits for the following year. Aside from your own private toilet and bath, each beach-front cottage also has a private veranda area with a hammock, and a tranquil strip of beach just a few steps away. Cityphiles will definitely be in awe seeing the lush green mountain ranges seen just across the clear, turquoise open water. It's a surreal experience!

For inquiries and reservations, contact Club Paradise and El Rio Y Mar through Euro-Pacific Resorts Inc., Regent Bldg. Malunggay Road, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila. Call 8384956 to 60, or e-mail reservations@clubparadisepalawan.com and info@elrioymar.com

You can also ask your travel agent regarding Club Paradise booking and promos, or visit their website www.clubparadisepalawan.com

To fly to Busuanga, contact Asian Spirit or South East Asian Airlines. For rates, reservations and packages for Club Paradise and El Rio Y Mar, contact Asian Spirit at 8518888 and www.asianspirit.com, and Seair at 8841521, tickets@flyseair.com, www.flyseair.com

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Palawan sojourn

From page D4

DINE or get a massage at the cabana during sunset for the best view.

TONY, Cynthia, me and Vikkie on our way to the jetty

umang is called hermit crab, while I learned that *umang* is the local term for hermit crab.

Afterwards, we all headed to the gallery where Tibor toured the children around, explaining his works along the way. Although the paintings had heavy subjects such as the Spratley Islands' dispute and the impermanence of things, the children understood them.

While the children rested and fed, our group was taken to another island for the picnic lunch. The island, Air6, was known for its sand bar. A sandbar's not a place to get alcohol, mind you. It's a long strip of sand, much like a natural catwalk. The tide was high, so the strip wasn't so visible. It was a beautiful site nonetheless.

We went back the restaurant, where the children were already in the middle of the art workshop. Somebody commented, "Where are the crayons?" Tibor replied that there wasn't one, because he wanted to teach them how to make art out of things they encounter every day. The kids had a blast doing sand art, stick art and dyeing cloths.

In the end, Tibor emphasized that just because they couldn't afford the typical art materials like oil paints didn't mean they couldn't create art.

That night, we were all treated to a candlelit dinner by the pool. After dinner, we decided to drop by the staff's party—a monthly ritual where the resort's owners and heads of departments cook for the staff. The staff members, on the other hand, performed song numbers.

Day 3

The staff suggested that we go kayaking and diving in the morning while the water was still calm. We kayaked around the island spotting egrets, kingfishers and other exotic-looking birds along the way. Think National Geographic live. What I found amazing was while our side of the bay was calm, not too far was where the calm water acted as the shore for the slightly turbulent waves—as if the water had split personalities. If I'm not mistaken it was one of *amihan*'s effects.

We headed to the receiving dock where Cynthia and I were informed of the diving basics. Manny, one of the dive masters, managed to cover the equipment use, hand signals and make us laugh. I guess it was to calm our nerves.

A boat took us to Helen's Garden, named so because it looks like an underwater garden with a variety of corals in that spot. I was having trouble equalizing the pressure at first, but I got over it quickly. I started to appreciate the corals and tried to touch the fishes, but I (unintentionally!) scared them away. My guide, Franz, signaled for me to touch the meat of the giant clam. I thought it was fantastic and disgusting. I thought it must feel like rubber wellies when cooked. Franz pulled me back to the platform after what felt like 10 minutes underwater. I told him that I wanted to see more corals if I have air left in the tank. So I went back for seconds.

We had the rest of the afternoon off. I swam much because my shoulders were killing me from the morning's kayaking. It was a good thing I had my massage scheduled late in that afternoon. Unlike the rest, I requested for my massage at the cabana. I chose a perfect time as well, because the sun was starting to set.

They served crab for dinner. It was a lot smaller than the ones I was used to so I thought it couldn't be crabs. I asked, "Is this the *talangka*?" Everyone at the table laughed. I blamed the people who told me that *talangka* was a smaller crab. I didn't know it was much much smaller than the crab.

The next day, it rained. I guess Palawan wanted us to stay. It rained so hard that our flight out was delayed for 10 hours. It was back to reality, indeed —back to the pollution, and the stress.

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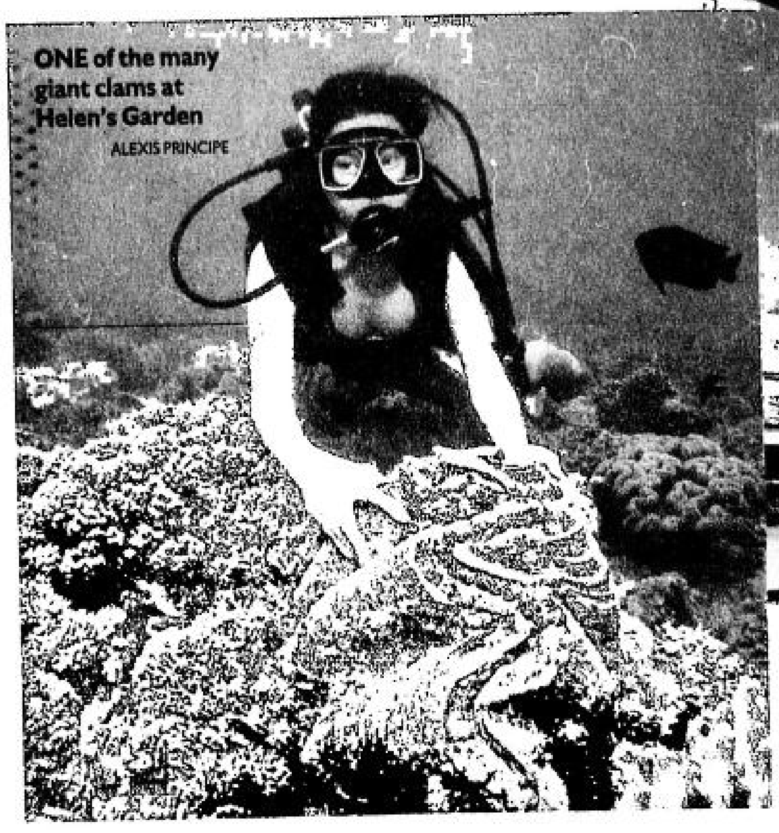
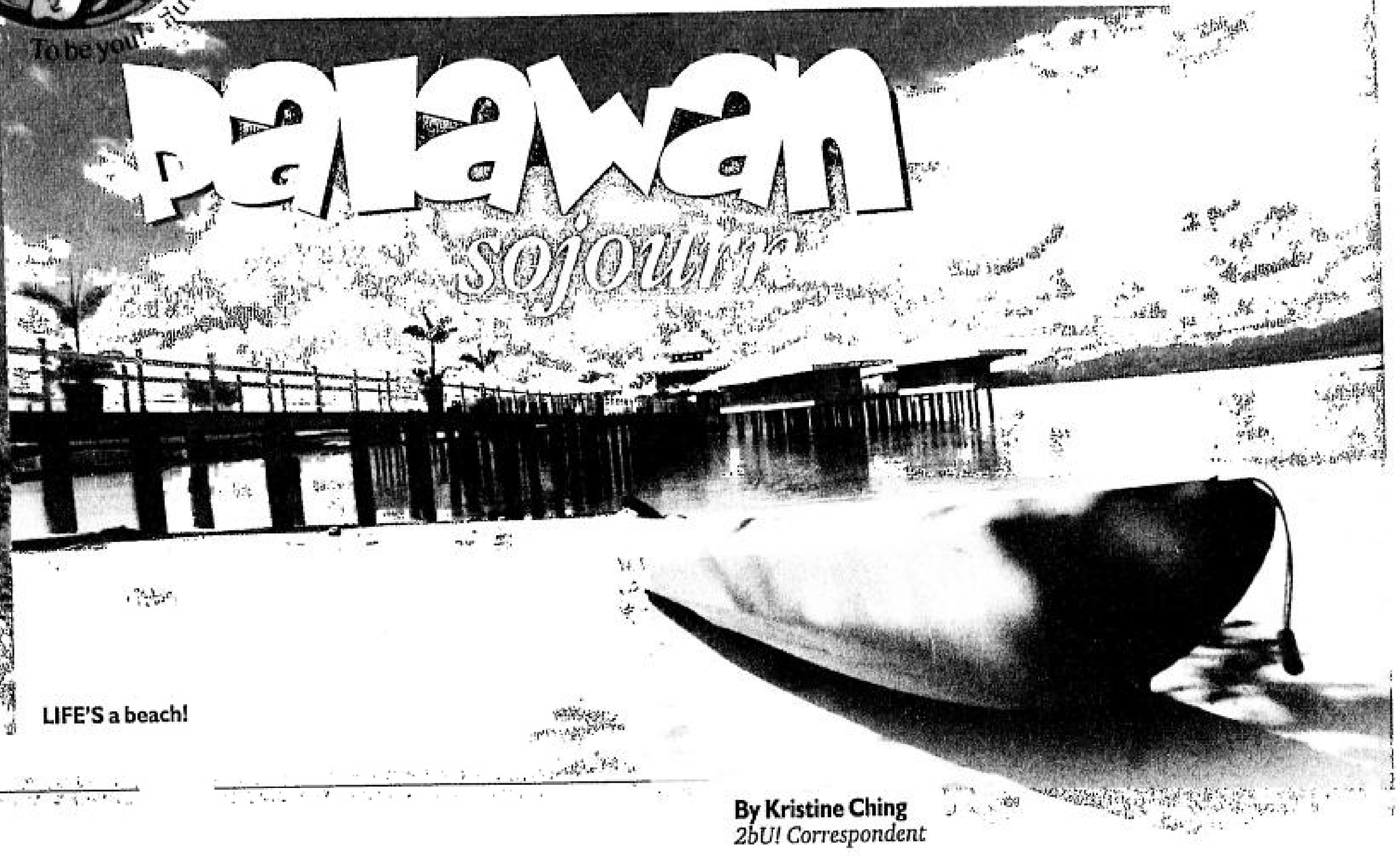


ONE of the many giant clams at Helen's Garden
ALEXIS PRINCIPE

Palawan sojourn



LIFE'S a beach!

By Kristine Ching
2bU! Correspondent

I PROPOSE THAT BEACH LEAVES BE MADE COMPULSORY. No matter how convenient it is to live in the city, it becomes hell once the sweltering summer months set in. Cooling off appears to be the only alternative.

So recently I took a flight to Puerto Princesa. It takes a little over an hour to fly from Manila plus a 15-minute bus ride to the jetty. From the St. Lourdes wharf, the resort's boat took us to Dos Palmas Arreceffi.

Upon reaching the resort's dock, my companions and I were welcomed by music from *kulintangs* and a cold glass of hibiscus (that's *gumamela* to us) juice. It was distinctly Filipino without being mainstream. After lunch, our group moseyed around the resort. First stop was Jonathan Benitez's hut, Dos Palmas's resident artist.

Jonathan, "Tibor" to the locals, depicts the typical life in Palawan in his works. His latest series showed underwater images, products of Tibor's numerous dives.

We then passed by spa village, which was disappointingly under renovation. We headed to the research center. The resident marine biologist, Alexis Principe, told us about the dugong sightings and *pawikans* (sea turtles) laying eggs on the island.

For the rest of the afternoon, I found myself distracted by the monkey's puzzle, which is a common term used to describe the seed of the *tabigi* (a certain mangrove fruit) because of its irregularly shaped segments. Forming the puzzle wasn't as easy as it looked. In the span of over two hours, I managed to piece three segments together.

When I heard that there was going to be a cultural show at dinner, I thought to myself, were we there to specifically eat or sleep? As it turned out the event would end up arousing my interests as it showcased dances from the Mindanao and Visayas rather than the overused *tinikling-pandango* routine.

KIDS create tie-dye and sand art from unconventional materials at the workshop.

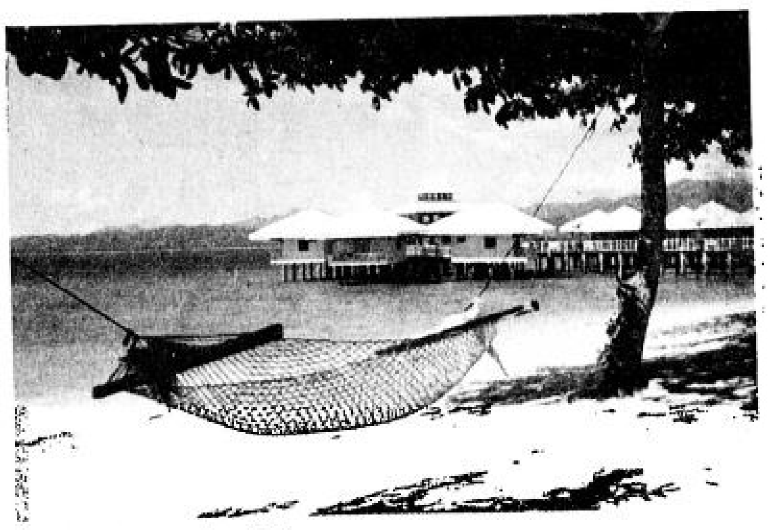
Our group decided to hang out at the *karaoke* room after dinner.

Day 2

We put our snorkeling plans on hold on our second day for the launching of the Dos Palmas Arts Center and Research Camp. Instead of turning it into some chi-chi event, the resort owners decided to invite children from the mainland's public schools—who were handpicked for their artistic inclination by their school officials—and dependents of the staff.

First off, the kids, teachers and parents were brought to the mangroves and the shore where Alexis explained the creatures that dwell in such environment and their importance to the ecosystem. The kids learned that the

PALAWAN/ D2



I COULD get used to this!

Away AHHCHOO!

Performer Ricci Chan prevents allergic rhinitis from stealing the show

Nope, stage actor Ricci Chan isn't going to let allergic rhinitis steal the show from him!

Multi-talented Ricci Chan lives to express and this is why he became a stage actor. He is blessed in the performance and talent departments!

Bitten by the acting bug since he was in third grade, Ricci has appeared in countless stage productions and is best known for his performances as Angel in Rent, Joshua in Temptation Island, and in All about Men: Penis Talks. His latest incarnation is the hilarious Didi in Carlo Vergara's Zsazsa Zaturnnah: Ze Muzikal, showing at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

His latest theatrical outing requires comic timing and a powerful singing voice so his vocal chords constantly have to be in Mariah Carey meets Luciano Pavarotti mode. Thus, suffering from the symptoms of allergic rhinitis – such as sneezing, runny or clogged nose, itchy, watery and red eyes and itchy throat – are a big no-no!

Unfortunately for the actor, allergic rhinitis is something that he has to live with everyday. "I've had allergic rhinitis since, like, forever," he says, complete with award-winning theatrical gestures. "It's a condition that runs in the family."

Allergic rhinitis happens when there is swelling in the nose lining or nasal membrane caused by exposure to allergens such as house dust, pollen, animal dander, or pollution.

For Ricci, house dust and pollution are the main culprits behind his allergic rhinitis attacks. "I get the sniffles and sneeze 30, 40, to 50 times and more frequently with allergic rhinitis than with the common cold," he explains.

A person who suffers from allergic rhinitis may sneeze repeatedly. The sneezing fits seem to follow a pattern and may happen almost daily, particularly upon waking up in the morning.

"But there's more to allergic rhinitis than that", Ricci adds. "My eyes grow red, watery, and itchy. My throat also starts to itch, which can make me feel awkward while acting and singing. I'm more scared of allergic rhinitis than the common cold!!!" he desperately screams.

When left untreated, allergic rhinitis can lead to the worsening of asthma, sinusitis, ear infections, and other complications. It's a good thing that with Benadryl AH (Diphenhydramine Hcl), Ricci has found relief from the bothersome symptoms of allergic rhinitis such as non-stop sneezing with runny nose and itchy, watery red eyes.

And with allergic rhinitis out of the way, Ricci is ready to take the stage for a deafening applause and a standing ovation.

Bless you! "I get the sniffles and sneeze 30, 40, to 50 times and more frequently with allergic rhinitis than with the common cold," Ricci Chan explains. When left untreated, allergic rhinitis can lead to worsening of asthma, sinusitis, ear infections, and other complications.

(Above) Ricci Chan experiences bothersome sneezing fits; and (Left) Ricci Chan rehearses his newest stage musicale. As a stage actor who takes his craft seriously, Ricci can't allow allergic rhinitis indeed to get in the way of his performances.

Diphenhydramine Hydrochloride
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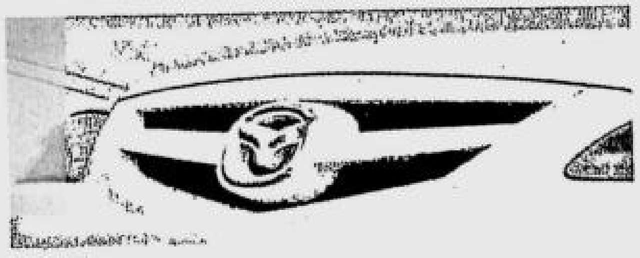
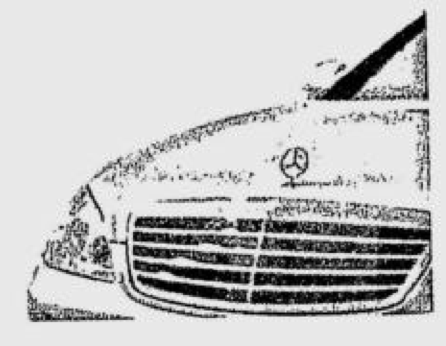
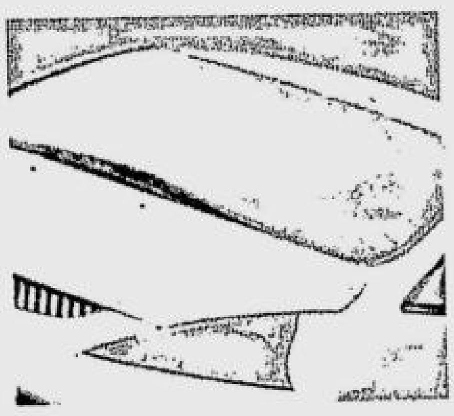
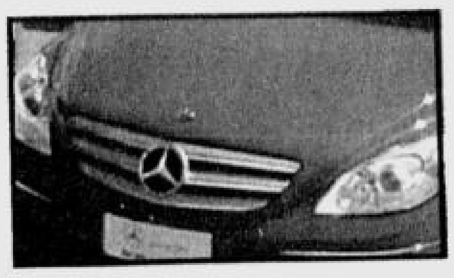
CAR of the YEAR

2nd CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS









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Aveo 1.5 A/T	610,000	69,000	48,166	33,005	25,595	18,214	14,592	12,715	7,310
Special Ed. Aveo 1.5 M/T	635,000	69,000	50,392	34,530	26,777	19,056	15,266	13,302	7,610
Special Ed. Aveo 1.5 A/T	675,000	79,000	53,062	36,361	28,196	20,066	16,075	14,007	8,089
Optra 1.6 L M/T	650,000	89,000	49,946	34,225	26,541	18,888	15,131	13,185	7,790
Optra 1.6 L A/T	696,000	89,000	54,042	37,032	28,717	20,436	16,372	14,266	8,341
Optra 1.6 LS M/T	724,000	89,000	56,535	38,740	30,042	21,379	17,127	14,924	8,676
Optra 1.6 LS A/T	770,000	89,000	60,630	41,546	32,218	22,928	18,367	16,005	9,228
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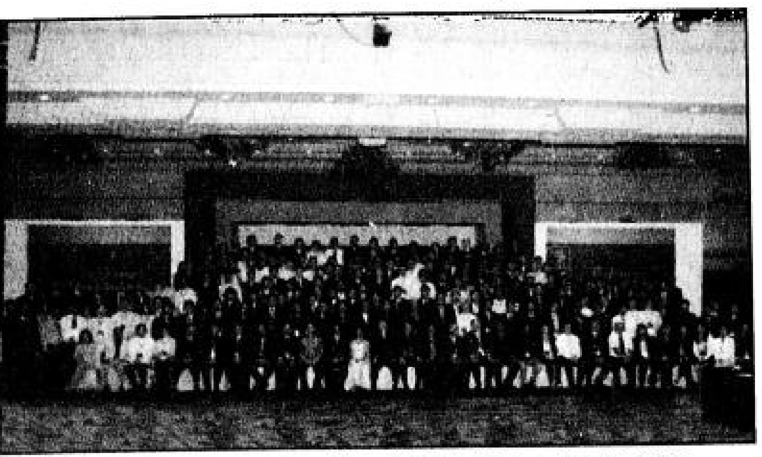
2006 Global Dealers Seminar

HYUNDAI HOLDS 2006 GLOBAL DEALERS SEMINAR IN MANILA

Four Days of Business and Leisure While Promoting Unity Among Asia and the Pacific Regions.

HMC VIP delegates greeted at the NAIA by Ms. Fe Perez-Agudo, HARI EVP & COO.


Presenting the delegates of Hyundai Global Dealers Seminar 2006.

Once again, the time has come for the Asia-Pacific rim to be united under one global name, Hyundai, the largest Korean automotive manufacturer famous for quality vehicles and has now spanned across international borders.

Delegations from 17 countries in the Asia-Pacific rim, namely Korea, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Vietnam, New Zealand, Laos, Taiwan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, Saipan and Macao, participated in the Hyundai Global Dealers Seminar which was headed by Hyundai Motor Company's Executive Vice President, Mr. Lee Bong Gou. The staunch and respected Mr. Lee awarded to Hyundai Asia Resources Incorporated, the distinct honor of hosting this year's annual event.

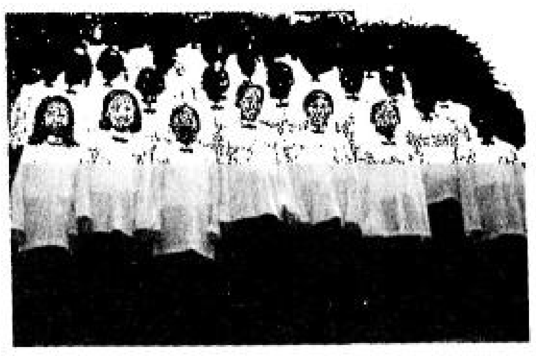
Seen here are delegates from various countries during their business conference at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel.

The highlight of the four-day event was a business conference which focused on Hyundai's global corporate vision and goals for 2006 and detailed their strategies for dealer enhancement and advertising and promotions. New Zealand's Cockram Motor Group and the Philippine's Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. shared their success stories which led them to be heralded as this year's Best Dealer and Best Distributor Awards of Excellence, respectively.

The seminar was capped by leisure activities which delighted both foreign and local delegates. One activity was a friendly game of golf at one of the country's premiere golf spots, the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite, and a city tour of Manila, which took the delegates to the historical landmarks of Fort Santiago in Intramuros and the San Agustin Church, the Ayala Museum and a shopping spree at the Tiendesitas in Pasig City, the newest bargain center offering a wide array of native goods and products.

And just as they were entertained by some of the Philippines' top-caliber artists, they took their time to shine later that night with the Hyundai International Talent Competition and the Hyundai Karaoke Challenge. Hyundai business partners and employees showed off their vocal skills and proved that regardless of nationality, they can all be united as one.

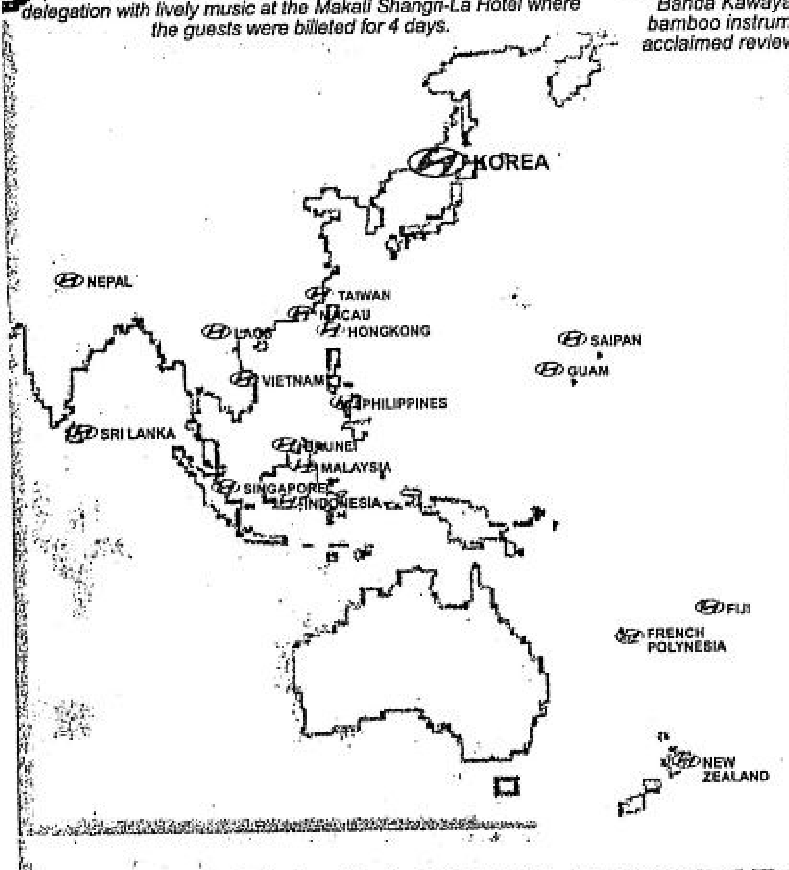
This event was made even more memorable with each evening affair highlighting some of the country's best performers and entertainers such as The Philippine Children's Choir from Mandaluyong City, Banda Kawayan, Stradivarius String Ensemble and the sultry songstress, Geneva Cruz to name a few.

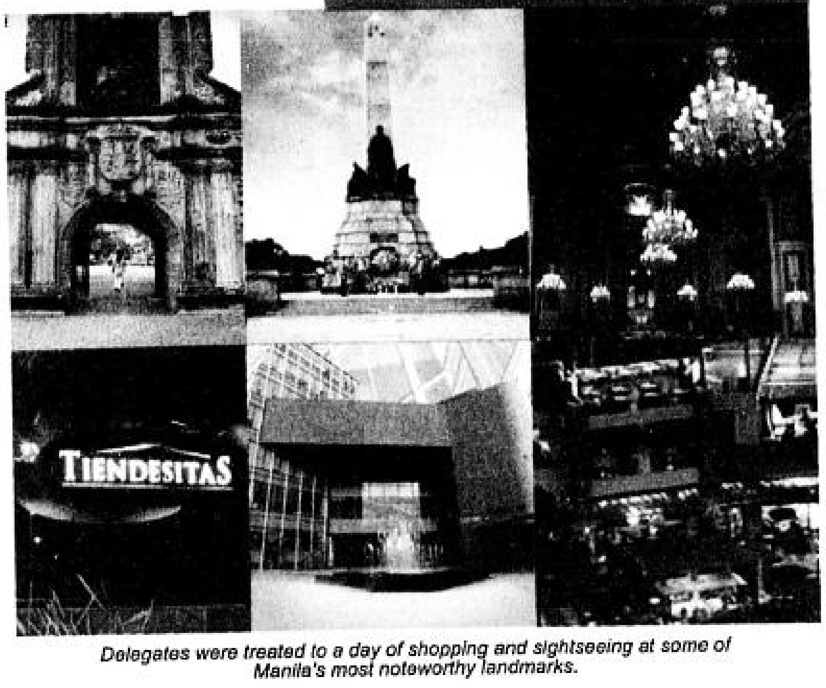

A touching performance by the Philippine Children's Choir from Mandaluyong as they rendered an Inspirational and all original song number "Together We Can!" at the Farewell Dinner.

A highly anticipated golf tournament was held at one of the country's finest golf courses, the Eagle Ridge Golf & Country Club.

The renowned Celso Espejo Rondalla welcomed the arriving delegation with lively music at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel where the guests were billeted for 4 days.

Guests were delighted at the Arrival Dinner by the Banda Kawayan. A noted band that utilizes bamboo instruments & has garnered critically acclaimed reviews from both here and abroad.





Delegates were treated to a day of shopping and sightseeing at some of Manila's most noteworthy landmarks.

The Big Names Behind the Big Event

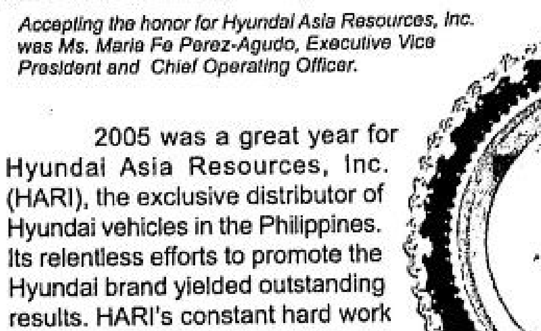
Hyundai pulled out all the stops at the its Global Dealers Seminar as it was top-billed by HMC's most illustrious business heads. HMC HQ, Asia Pacific Regional HQ and HARI all worked together to bring about a more than remarkable gathering of professionals in the automotive sales industry.

Mr. B.G. Lee,
Executive Vice President
of Hyundai Motor Company

HMC HQ Executive Vice President, Mr. Bong Gou Lee, in his welcome speech on the occasion of the 2006 Global Dealers Seminar Asia Pacific Region, stressed the importance of unity and teamwork in building an empowered Hyundai brand and channeling its efforts to deliver utmost customer satisfaction. Mr. Lee particularly emphasized the vital role that the Hyundai Asia-Pacific Region played in strengthening Hyundai's global sales performance in 2005. The 26% sales increase from 2004 posted by the Asia-Pacific region, Mr. Lee reported, was the best record among the regions where Hyundai is present. Mr. Lee took the opportunity to thank the dealers and distributors of the Asia-Pacific region for their excellent and outstanding performance.

Other top-brass executives in attendance include Su Dong Yeo, Director of Pacific Regional Headquarters; Il Sung Seo, General Manager of Asia Regional Headquarters; Woo Suk Yang, General Manager of Asia and the Pacific Team; Tae Hwan Lee, General Manager of Export Planning Team; Byung Kwon Rhim, General Manager of Export Promotion Team HMC, and Cheoul Woo Lee, General Manager of Export Market Support Team.

THE ASIA PACIFIC DISTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR 2005 IS HYUNDAI ASIA RESOURCES, INC.


Accepting the honor for Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. was Ms. Maria Fe Perez-Agudo, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

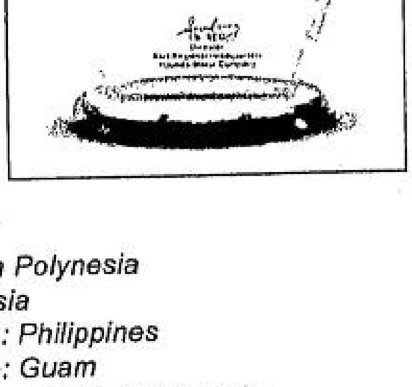
2005 was a great year for Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), the exclusive distributor of Hyundai vehicles in the Philippines. Its relentless efforts to promote the Hyundai brand yielded outstanding results. HARI's constant hard work showed a 103% growth rate, more than doubling sales from the previous year. From its 2004 ranking of 9th place amongst 18 automotive players, Hyundai jumped 3 notches up and took over the 6th rank by 2005.

HYUNDAI
2005 Award of Excellence

H.A.R.I.'s latest headquarters located at 315 Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

An astonishing achievement, HARI cornered the market's grey sectors and achieved their 5% target market share. This segment of the market was more than satisfied with Hyundai's vehicles and services. From the Starex's thunderous victory, the Getz, Matrix, Sonata and Tucson found a steady foothold and entry point against competing brands securing a place in the hearts of the Filipino people.

That same evening, Hyundai E. Rodriguez was given an award of excellence for being the top performing dealer in the country.



Other awards given that morning included:

- *Dealer of the Year: New Zealand*
- *Award of Excellence in Sales: Brunei*
- *Award of Excellence in Sales: French Polynesia*
- *Award of Excellence in Sales: Malaysia*
- *Award of Excellence in Market Share: Philippines*
- *Award of Excellence in Market Share: Guam*
- *Award of Excellence in After Sales Operations: Indonesia*
- *Award of Excellence in Customer Satisfaction: Malaysia*

HYUNDAI Getz BEST SUB-COMPACT CAR OF THE YEAR

The Hyundai Getz won the accolade as the Philippines' Sub-Compact Car of the Year during the 2nd Car of the Year (COTY) Awards held last March 30, 2006 at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City. The final vote was cast at the conclusion of a series of test drives conducted by a professional group of automotive experts and motoring journalists at Forest Hills Golf and Country Club, Antipolo last January 2006.

According to Car Awards Group, Inc. (CAGI) president Manny de los Reyes, "The test drives were a combination of instrumented and qualitative tests following the same format of other internationally recognized Car of the Year competitions. Its basic objective is to determine which vehicle ruled in its class."

Eight contenders made their way to the testing venue for this year's Sub Compact Car category competition: Chevrolet Aveo, Honda City, Honda Jazz, Kia Picanto, Suzuki Swift, Toyota Vios, Hyundai Matrix and the Hyundai Getz.

According to CAGI officers, the Hyundai Getz scored favorably among most CAGI members on price and engine performance during the CAGI sub-compact test drive competition. From price tags submitted by Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), official distributor of Hyundai vehicles in the Philippines, it was evident that entry admission fees for all four variants of the Hyundai Getz do not exceed Php630,000. With such retail prices, Hyundai made it clear that a worthwhile first car need not be expensive.

One other relevant factor where the Hyundai Getz bested others in its class is its performance, both on the road, in the showroom as well as in its sales performance. The 12-valve SOHC (single overhead camshaft) 1100cc gas engine puts out 66ps@5500 rpm and 10.1 kg-m of torque@3200 rpm, while the 1.4L engine puts out 95 ps@6000 rpm and 12.7 kg-m of torque@3200 rpm. And the diesel-fed 1.5LCRDi totes a variable geometry turbocharger (with intercooler), 110ps@4000 rpm and 24 kg-m of torque@1900-2750 rpm.

Likewise, the Hyundai Getz's "Space Wizard" concept, which features the vehicle's ability to accommodate five passengers in comfort, or 977 liters of luggage space, proves that this sub-compact's performance is not limited to what is under the hood. Hyundai's ability to place compartmentalized trays, side boxes and unusually useful pockets in unconventional places comes in handy when storing bric-a-brac on the go. And the Getz's low NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) and solid feel are relatively uncommon for a sub-compact car.

CAR of the YEAR

Further boosting the Hyundai Getz's credibility, is the fact that it has won the hearts of the European market, selling more than 100,000 units in less than 14 months; this success prompted the organizers of the 2004 Athens Olympics to dub the Getz as the sports event's official car.

With the combined forces of an affordable image, unique engine performance and the international and now, local, credentials to back it up, the Hyundai Getz has truly made its mark in the eyes of the motoring public as the best sub-compact car.

HYUNDAI CARS WINNING IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

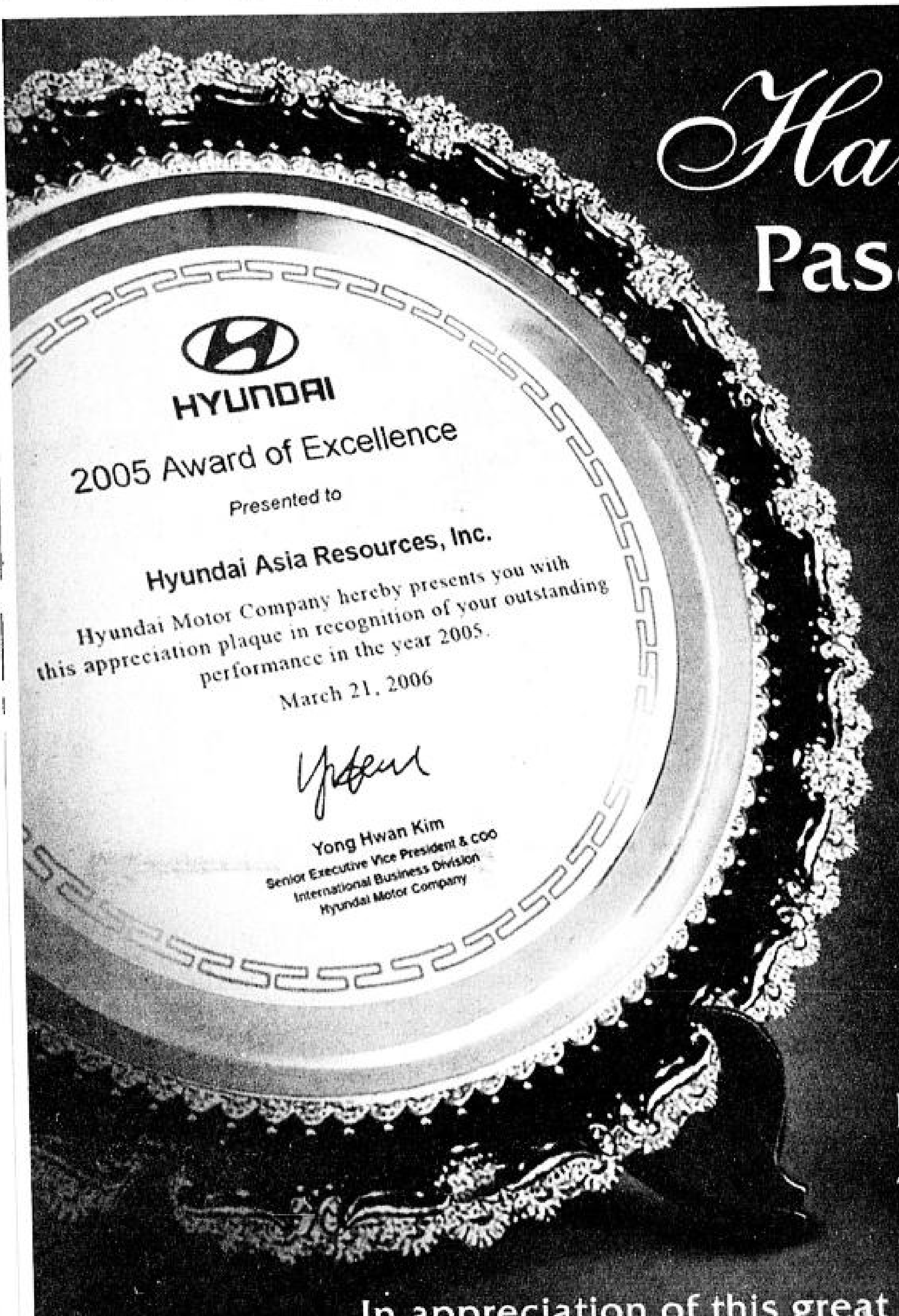
The Hyundai Getz, which won the Sub Compact Car of the Year plum, was not the only Hyundai vehicle that received recognition and acclaim from this year's Car of the Year (COTY) competition which had over 40 experts in the local automotive industry and motoring journalists for its panel of judges.

Other Hyundai vehicles that won in this year's highly-esteemed COTY competitions were: Hyundai Accent CRDi, 1st Runner Up, Compact Car Award; Hyundai Sonata, 1st Runner Up, Executive Car Category; and Hyundai Starex, 1st Runner Up, Entry Level MPV (Multi Purpose Vehicle).

In a short interview following the conclusion of the COTY awards night last March 30, Ms. Maria Fe Perez-Agudo, EVP and COO of Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), exclusive distributor of Hyundai vehicles in the country, said that, "the officers of HARI and, its mother company, Hyundai Motor Company (HMC), are grateful to the Car Awards Group, Inc. (CAGI), the COTY, and its organizers for having recognized Hyundai's strides to break new ground and make new inroads in the local automotive industry."

Noting that Hyundai had likewise won acclaim in several internationally recognized automotive car competitions last year, particularly the 2005 Initial Quality Study of J.D. Power and Associates, the automotive industry's most trusted survey firm, where Hyundai seized third place in the ranking of non-luxury automotive brands, and the stringent US survey, Strategic Vision Total Quality Study, which revealed that the Hyundai Tucson and the Accent bested their rivals in the Small SUV and Small Car Segments, respectively, Ms. Perez-Agudo, concluded that "the combined victories that HARI and HMC have won in the local and the international automotive market has proven and continues to prove that Hyundai is truly a global enterprise determined to make a difference in people's lives through world-class quality automobiles."

More than 70 cars participated in rigid assessments on fuel efficiency, acceleration, style, design, handling, comfort and a host of other criteria during the test fests held from January to February 2006 at Forest Hills, Antipolo. Votes were tabulated by the independent organization, Sycip, Gorres and Velayo.



HYUNDAI
2005 Award of Excellence
Presented to
Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc.
Hyundai Motor Company hereby presents you with this appreciation plaque in recognition of your outstanding performance in the year 2005.
March 21, 2006
Yong Hwan Kim
Senior Executive Vice President & COO
International Business Division
Hyundai Motor Company

Handog Pasasalamat

Because of your unwavering support and patronage, Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. received the highest distinction of

ASIA PACIFIC DISTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR 2005.

In appreciation of this great honor, we give you **3 easy options** to get your very own Starex!

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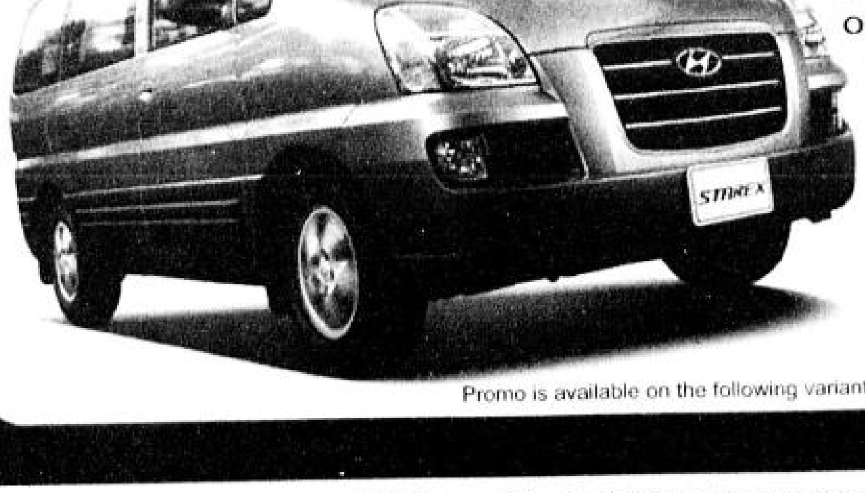

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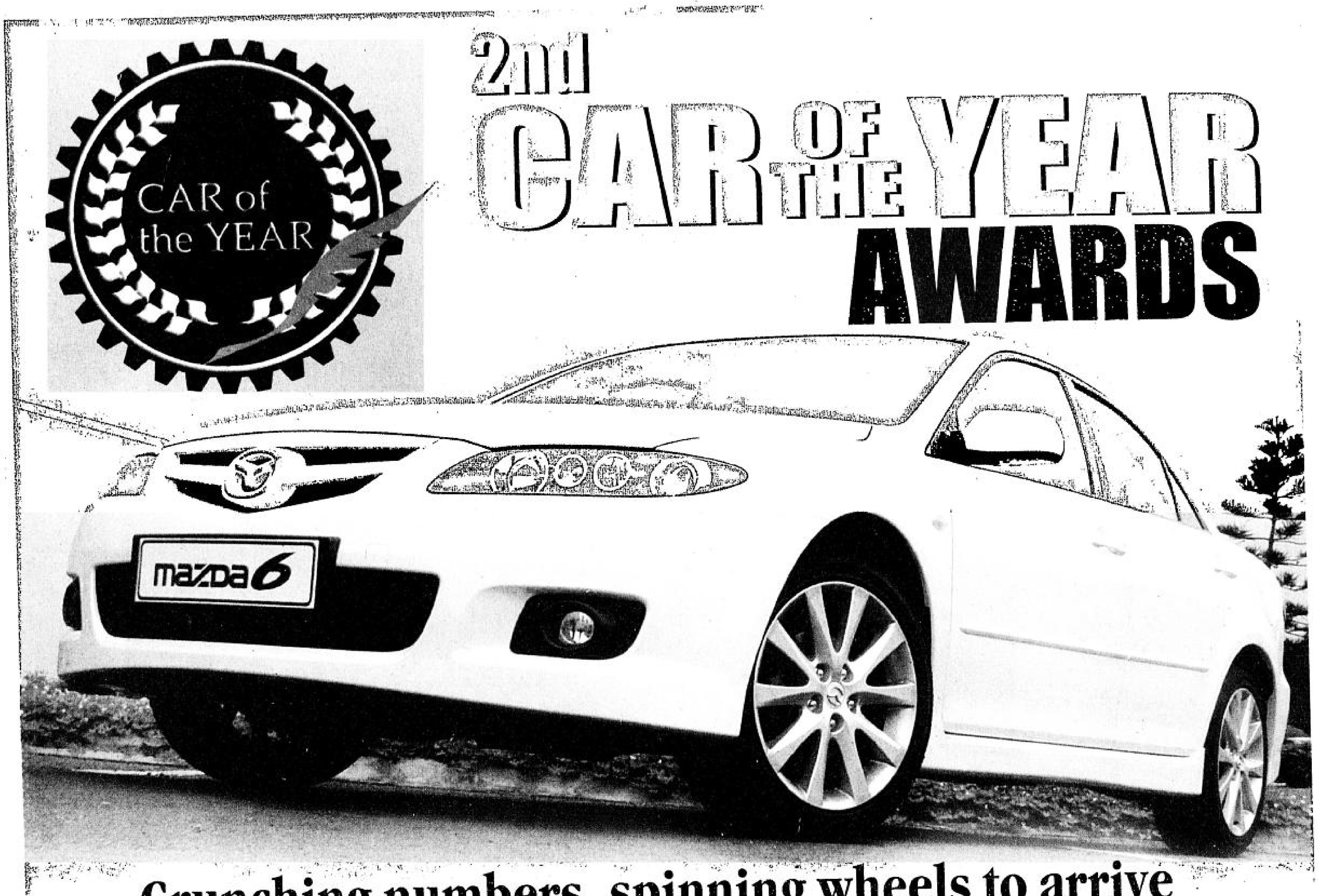
Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 2217. Series of 2006.

2nd CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS



Crunching numbers, spinning wheels to arrive at one grand conclusion

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE MOTORING SCRIBES HAVE DECIDED. The grand awarding night has been committed to memory, immortalized in still and moving pictures. Trophies have been hoisted, and thank you speeches made. The heady exhilaration of victory, and for those not chosen, the pain of heartbreak has subsided somewhat.

It took just a few seconds to open an envelope and announce a winner at the 2nd Car of the Year-Philippines at the Rockwell Tent in Makati on March 30, That envelope, however, was just the tip of the iceberg; the peak of a long, arduous process starting two months ago at the proving grounds of Forest Hills Golf and Country Club in Antipolo City that involved getting up close and professional (read: meticulously scientific) with 54 car models introduced from Sep. 1, 2004 to Dec. 31, 2005.

Like a rigodon that seemed never-ending, these 54 cars were "danced" by up to 40 motoring journalists at a time, such that by the end of the test drives, these journalists would have gone behind the wheels of a cumulative P154 million worth of cars, pick-ups, AUVs and SUVs, and answering 19 probing questions 54 times, translating to 1026 responses from each motoring journalist.

And this didn't yet count the two parameters for instrumented test ratings (for acceleration and braking) performed by five test drivers for each of the 54 vehicles, which translated to 270 instrumented drives for each of the 54 vehicles.

From 54 candidates, members of the Car Awards Group Inc whittled that number down to the "magic 11"-the major category winners for the Coty-P. And from that 11 emerged the overall Car of the Year--the executive sedan Mazda6 2.3-liter that earned the highest rating numerically overall.

For all that number crunching, Cagi was ably assisted by accounting firm Sycip, Gorres and Velayo, who conducted the official tabulations.

This year's complete winner list: Hyundai Getz 1.1 GL for the sub-compact sedan (P749,999 and below); Mitsubishi Lancer MX Ltd. for the compact sedan (P750,000 to P999,999); Mazda6 2.3L for the executive sedan (P1 million to P2.499 million).

Chrysler 300C for the luxury sedan (P2.5 million to 3.999 million); BMW 530i Sport for the ultra-luxury sedan (P4 million and above); Ford Ranger XLT for the pick-up category.

Toyota Innova D-4D G for the entry-level multipurpose vehicle or MPV (P1.399 million and below); Mitsubishi Grandis for the luxury MPV (P1.4 million and above)

Mazda Tribute 3.0V for the entry-level sports utility vehicle (P1.399 million and below); Volvo XC70 for luxury SUVs (P1.4 million to P3.999 million); Mercedes-Benz ML 350 for the ultra-luxury SUV (P4 million and above).

Special awards

The Mercedes-Benz S350 bagged the Best in Safety Features; the Toyota Innova 2.5G won the Best Value for Money; the Audi A6 bagged the Best in Overall Design, and the BMW X3 2.0d won the Best in Technical Innovation.

The general categories such as driving dynamics, interior, exterior, value added equipment, pricing and promotion of a car is incorporated in a questionnaire using an easy-to-compute 1-to-9 rating scale.

Manny delos Reyes, this year's Cagi president, explained that the rating used for the qualitative/subjective portion of the test was patterned after those used by motoring groups from Japan and other countries "with whom we coordinated prior to this endeavor."

Among this year's survey questions, which showed minor changes from last year's set of questions, were: "Does the vehicle accelerate strongly and smoothly? Are the brakes strong and easy to modulate? Does the vehicle corner responsively? Does it feel stable? Are the shifts smooth and easy? Does the vehicle have a comfortable ride? Does it have sufficient ground clearance?"

Other questions focused on safety features, driver and passenger ergonomics, interior material/build quality, even the air-con and audio and/or video systems.

Instrumented testing

The quantitative/objective portion, on the other hand, involved acceleration and braking tests using the latest, fully digital US-made G-Tech unit to measure those parameters provided by Cagi member Ferman Lao's Fusion R.

The quantitative testing was conducted by the same control group of drivers for each test. The test course for both qualitative and quantitative testing was a 1.2-km closed circuit course at the Forest Hills Golf and Country Club in Antipolo.

Delos Reyes explained that Cagi chose the circuit because it offered a technical and highly realistic driving environment by combining a steep 35 to 40-degree uphill climb that rewarded "torquey" engines and responsive transmissions, off-camber downhill esses that uncovered a car's handling balance, a sharp dip that tested suspension damping, a 400-meter straightaway that emphasized low-end acceleration as well as braking power and modulation, and over half a dozen corners and curves (ranging from sharp to sweeping) that underscored a vehicle's combined acceleration, cornering and braking performance.

"This year, we've also asked testers to pay closer attention to other parameters such as NVH (noise, vibration, harshness), build quality, fit and finish, level of amenities, and amount of safety features, among many others."

Armin Amio, Cagi founder and executive director, said that through Coty-P, the association is also trying to educate the car-buying public.

"Some winners may not be well known or backed up by media campaigns but we're encouraging buyers to take a second look at

CRUNCHING/ E7

More Coty-P stories in Section F

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Five stars for the Mercedes-Benz M-Class

THE M-CLASS HAS COME out of the crash-test program of the "National Highway Traffic Safety Administration" with flying colors, becoming one of the first SUVs to be awarded the maximum five-star rating for both the frontal and side crashes in the US-NCAP test. Having been highly successful in numerous safety tests covering all vehicle categories all over the world, Mercedes-Benz has now once again proven that, really, one star on the car is all it takes.

After earning five stars in both the frontal and the side crash, the new M-Class now occupies a leading position in the SUV segment. In the American version of the NCAP test (New Car Assessment Program) the vehicles are subjected to a front-end crash at 36 mph (56 km/h) against a rigid wall. The Sincap test (Side Impact New Car Assessment Program) specifies an impact by a 1368-kilogram deformable barrier against the side of the car on a level with the front-seat occupants at 38.5 mph (62 km/h).

The M-Class debuted on the American market six months ago and rapidly became a trendsetter. The Mercedes off-roader sets new standards particularly with regard to passive safety. The unitized body with its high-strength passenger compartment and generous deformation zones front and rear provides the basic foundation for outstanding occupant protection. Adaptive two-stage front airbags for the driver and front passenger, front sidebags, windowbags, belt tensioners and belt force limiters are all standard specification.

One unique new feature in the SUV segment is the Pre-Safe anticipatory occupant protection system. In critical driving situations where an accident threatens, the system cuts in like an athlete's reflexes, preparing the occupants and the vehicle for a potential collision. As a precaution, Pre-Safe tensions both front seat belts, moves the electrically adjustable front passenger seat to a safer position and, if a rollover appears imminent, also closes the sunroof.

For more information, call CATS Motors at 815-7777 or 723-5808 or log on to www.mercedes-benz.com.ph. CATS Motors is the General Distributor of Mercedes-Benz passenger cars and commercial vehicles in the Philippines.

The most awarded new car in automotive history

THE VEHICLE THAT MARKED THE RETURN of the great American car now has the distinguished title of the most-awarded new car in automotive history. Consumers have embraced the Chrysler 300C's striking proportions, classic American design and advanced technologies, helping spur the Chrysler brand to record-breaking sales numbers.

"The beautiful styling and incredible performance of the Chrysler 300C created a package unlike any other in the marketplace," said Jeff Bell, Chrysler vice president. "We are honored and proud of the recognition we have received for the Chrysler 300C and we plan to continue to delight our customers for the 2006 model year."

With Chrysler brand's long-standing tradition of innovative design, the modern elegance of the 2006 Chrysler 300C continues to make everything else on the road seem ordinary. The dramatic exterior design direction of the Chrysler 300C along with sophisticated interior amenities and command-of-the-road technologies, establish a new large-car formula that includes style and performance not likely to be copied.

What's new for 2006?

The award-winning Chrysler 300C returns for 2006 with the same elements of its successful 2005 formula, strikingly beautiful styling, incredible performance, dynamic and controlled handling and unsurpassed comfort and spaciousness all at a stunningly affordable price.

The 2006 Chrysler 300C line-up includes the rear-wheel-drive (RWD) Chrysler 300C and the Hemi-powered Chrysler 300C.

Engine, transmission options

The 2006 Chrysler 300C is equipped with a 3.5-liter high output V-6 engine mated to Chrysler Group's five-speed automatic transmission with AutoStick. AutoStick features driver-selectable range control, offering a fully automatic or manual shift selection. The 2006 Chrysler 300C continues to feature the 5.7-liter Hemi V-8 engine, with cylinder deactivation, mated to the five-speed transmission.

Additional safety features

A Tire Pressure Monitoring (TPM) system, which monitors the pressure inside each tire and alerts the driver to improper tire pressure conditions, is standard on the 2006 Chrysler 300C. The basic system uses an amber ISO symbol, which indicates when one or more tires are under-inflated. A premium TPM system is available on the Chrysler 300C, which displays all four tire pressures and warnings in the Electronic Vehicle Information Center display in the instrument panel.

A front-seat seat belt alert, which chimes to remind occupants to buckle up, and a speed control instrument panel indicator light also are featured on all 2006 Chrysler 300C vehicles.

Rear-wheel-drive technology

Chrysler 300C customers embraced the return to rear-wheel drive in 2005. Technologies such as Electronic Stability Program (ESP), All-speed Traction Control System (TCS) and Anti-lock Brake System (ABS) helped control Chrysler 300C cars in ways that were transparent to the driver, yet provided exceptional ride and handling characteristics.

"Chrysler's rear-wheel-drive architecture transfers Hemi power to the pavement, while the ESP, traction control and ABS offer safe control of the vehicle," said Craig Love, vice president of the rear-wheel-drive platform team, Chrysler Group. "The five-link independent suspension delivers excellent handling and responsiveness to provide an incredible smooth ride."

ESP enhances driver control and helps maintain directional stability, including uneven surface conditions and patchy snow, ice or gravel. If there's a discernible difference between what the driver indicates through the steering and the vehicle's path, ESP applies selective braking and throttle control to put the car back onto the driver's intended path. The system is calibrated for improved control of the vehicle under a variety of conditions and operates in a manner that is not intrusive under normal driving.

ESP also offers Brake Assist, which detects when maximum braking is required by sensing the rate of brake application. By applying full brake pressure to all four brakes, this system improves stopping distance.

All-speed TCS enhances mobility and prevents wheel slip when accelerating on slippery surfaces. It also provides a measure of directional stability control-an advancement beyond prior traction control systems.

ABS keeps the vehicle straight, while retaining steering capability when braking on slippery surfaces by preventing wheel lock-up

The 2006 Chrysler 300C is also available as an all-wheel-drive model to provide excellent cornering balance under all driving conditions and improved traction in snow and wet-weather conditions. By driving continuously through all four wheels, the all-wheel-drive system, combined with standard ESP, All-speed TCS and ABS, adds outstanding performance and stability under all traction conditions.

"While chassis electronics and advanced tire technology help control the 2006 Chrysler 300C rear-wheel-drive models, some customers may opt for the all-wheel-drive choice," said Love. "We are able to offer what the customer wants in each case."

2006 Chrysler 300C lineup

The 2006 rear-wheel-drive Chrysler 300C features a 3.5-liter High Output V-6 engine and a five-speed automatic transmission with AutoStick that offers 250 horsepower and 250 lb.-ft. of torque, providing the perfect blend of performance and fuel economy.

In addition to the standard features available, the Chrysler 300C adds ESP with Brake Assist, All-speed Traction Control System, Four-wheel ABS, body-coloured heated mirrors, fog lamps, mini-carbon accent bezel on center console and leather-trimmed seats, steering wheel and shift knob.

An optional Comfort and Convenience Group is available, featuring an eight-way power front passenger seat with power recline, heated front seats and express up/down front windows.

The 2006 Chrysler 300C model features the 5.7-liter Hemi V-8 engine with Multiple Displacement System (MDS). MDS seamlessly turns off the fuel consumption in four cylinders of the Hemi engine when V-8 power is not needed, improving fuel economy by as much as 20 percent. This Hemi engine is mated to a five-speed automatic transmission with AutoStick.

With 340 horsepower (254 kW) and 390 lb.-ft. (525 Nom) of torque, the Chrysler 300C can go from zero to 60 mph in just 6.3 seconds.

Standard features on the rear-wheel-drive 2006 Chrysler 300C include all rear-wheel-drive Chrysler 300 with the Limited package standard features plus/replaced by the following: 18-inch chrome-clad aluminum wheels, Boston Acoustics six-speaker sound system with 276-watt digital amplifier with door trim badge, chrome, multi-function, power, heated foldaway mirrors with memory feature and driver's auto-dimming and auto-adjust in reverse, dual exhaust with bright tips, performance four-wheel disc anti-lock brakes, power tilt and telescoping steering column, premium leather interior trim, Satin Silver accent bezel on center console projector halogen headlamps with delay, rain-sensitive wipers, tortoise shell-style interior accents, trunk liner and a memory system for driver's seat, radio presets, steering column, display and pedals (if equipped).

The 2006 Chrysler 300C is also available as an all-wheel-drive model, which adds a front differential, transfer case and all-wheel-drive front suspension.

Exterior colors

Exterior colors for 2006 Chrysler 300C include Bright Silver Metallic, Brilliant Black Crystal Pearl Coat, Cool Vanilla, Magnesium Pearl Coat, Midnight Blue Pearl Coat, Satin Jade Pearl Coat and Silver Steel Metallic. First available on the Chrysler Signature Series in 2005, Linen Gold Metallic exterior paint replaces Deep Lava Red Metallic for the 2006 model year.

Test-drive the 2006 Chrysler 300C at CATS Motors. For more information, call 723-5808 or log on to www.chrysler.com.ph.

Superlative in design and technology

AS IN THE PRECEDING SERIES, THE new S-Class introduces technical innovations which make the flagship Mercedes model an example for others to follow. Pioneering safety features and exemplary comfort continue to be the outstanding attributes of the S-Class. The new saloon also sets standards in driving dynamics with its agile handling, while offering even more driving pleasure with new, more powerful engines. The new S-Class replaced a model series which was the world No. 1 in the luxury class, and of which around 485,000 have been produced since 1998.

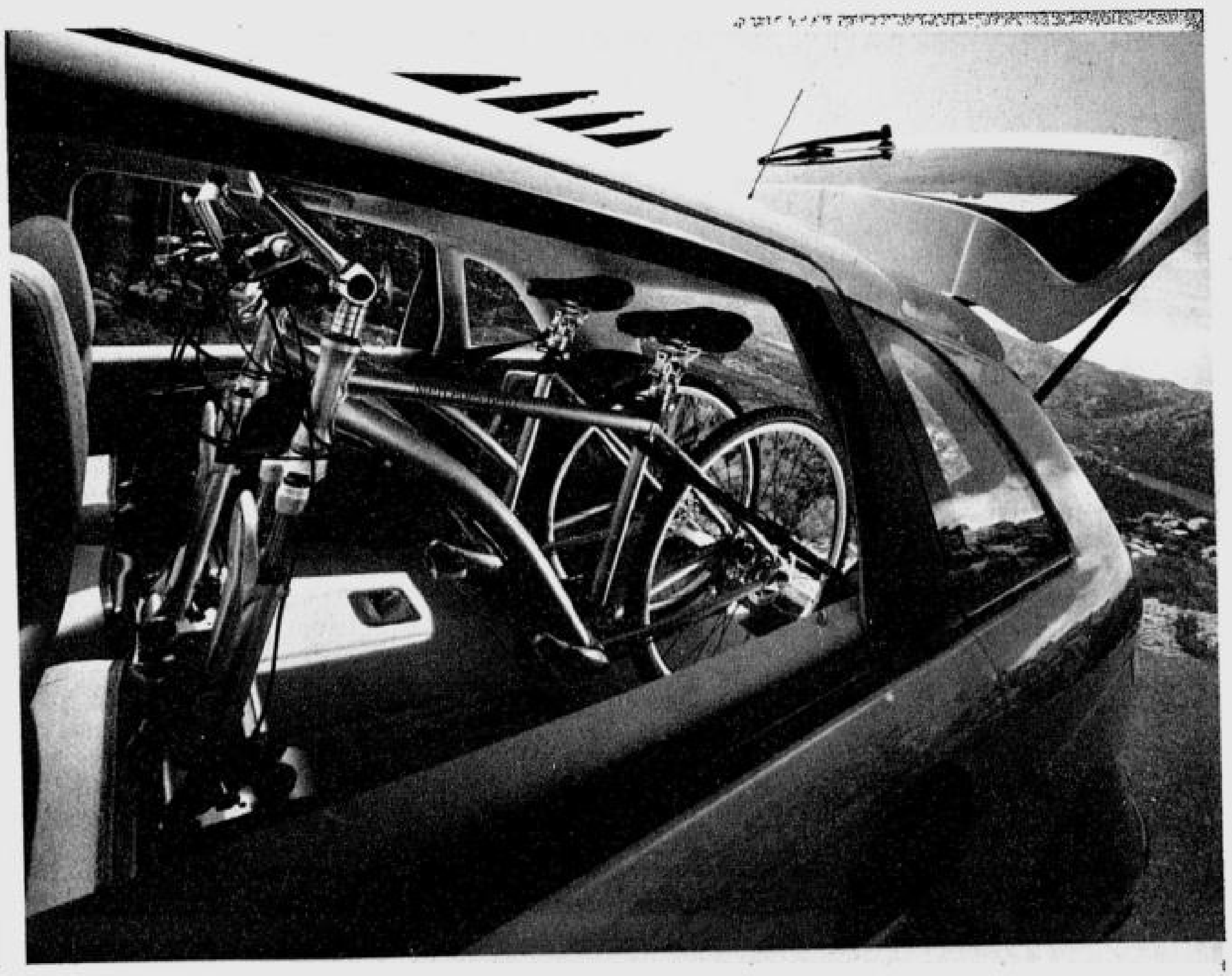
For more than five decades, the letter "S" in the model designation of Mercedes cars has signified a special aura, intelligent technology and the highest quality. The new S-Class not only continues this tradition, but lends a new meaning to it. It is a technological pacemaker with its pioneering innovations for more safety, comfort and practicality, and like its predecessors it will influence the automotive development of the future. The saloon exudes this poise and assurance even at first glance. Its design emphasizes the confident, powerful and elegant character of the new S-Class, which makes every journey an experience.

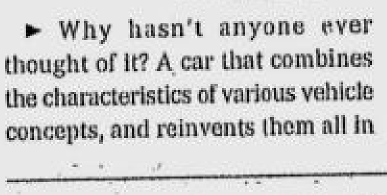
Achieving even more technological highlights was a challenge for the engineers in Stuttgart and Sindelfingen, for the bar was set very high: the previous S-Class, which had been repeatedly voted the "Best Car in the World" since its presentation in 1998, was a hard act to follow. The progress Mercedes-Benz has made with the new saloon is based on this already high level. A dozen technical innovations have entered series production for the first time on board the new S-Class-from Brake Assist PLUS with radar sensors to seats with an extended massage function, from the night view assist system with the latest infra-red technology to the new Command system, and from preventive Pre-Safe occupant protection with additional functions to Parking Assist.

Number 1 in the luxury class

The new S-Class replaces a successful series which has captured the top end of this market segment in every region of the world. Even in its last year of production the flagship saloon by Mercedes-Benz is the worldwide market leader among the world's luxury saloons, with around 18,000 units sold.

Accolades achieved by the previous S-Class include around four dozen prizes and awards in international competitions, with numerous titles such as "Best Car", "Most Innovative Saloon", "Highest Design Quality" or "World's Finest Car".





Great outdoors. Exciting indoors.

The new Mercedes-Benz B-Class.
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► Why hasn't anyone ever thought of it? A car that combines the characteristics of various vehicle concepts, and reinvents them all in a completely new idea: the Compact Sports Tourer.

► At only 4.27m in length, the B-Class boasts generous space that's enough for 3 passengers comfortably seated in the back. Its adjustable seating means adjustable storage capacity for anything from mountain bikes and golf bags, to crates of food and supplies and anything in between.

► The Mercedes-Benz B-Class Compact Sports Tourer. A new dimension in practical luxury.

Mercedes-Benz

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Combining innovation, responsibility for sustainable future

AS A STEWARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL preservation and conservation for more than 100 years now, Ford Motor Company has initiated various projects aimed at protecting the environment and safeguarding it for future generations.

"Our vision for the future is simple: We want to build great products, a strong business and a better world," says Ford Motor Company chair and CEO William Clay Ford Jr.

For Motor Company is spearheading global-scale initiatives to protect the environment: through the implementation of cutting-edge technologies and best-practices throughout the whole lifecycle of a vehicle-from R&D to vehicle engineering to manufacturing to recycling and disposal-the company has undertaken key environmental actions that have brought about very positive results.

Ford has pioneered the development of hybrid vehicles that combine fuel efficiency with comfort and performance, and holds the distinction of being the first automotive manufacturer to put such hybrid cars on the road. The company developed the world's first sport hybrid utility vehicle using "full hybrid technology." This technology enables the vehicle to operate on the electric motor alone, or the gasoline more alone or both at the same time. Unlike other "mild" hybrid vehicles, full hybrids can run exclusively on electric mode during slower speeds and do not need to engage the internal combustion engine as long as there is enough power stored in the battery.

Renewable, alternative or flexi fuel is a part of Ford's global vision on innovation. Ethanol is the most popular and most abundant flexi fuel around. Ethanol is a combustible alcohol made from fermentation of sugars, starch and other organic sources. It can easily be produced locally through agricultural crops like sugarcane, sweet sorghum, cassava, corn, potatoes, and other organic materials which contain carbohydrates in sugar or starch forms. Ford's interest in using ethanol as an alternative fuel goes back to the days of Henry Ford. Ford planned to use ethanol as the primary fuel for his Model T, before gasoline emerged as the dominant fuel.

Ford has developed and manufactured several flexi-fuel vehicles (FFV) that automatically adjust to any ethanol/gasoline mixture for hassle-free and environmentally sound driving. Onboard sensors monitor the fuel mixture and the onboard computer adjusts spark timing and fuel flow to optimize performance. More than 1 million Ford FFVs have been on the road in North America, Brazil and Europe for the past 25 years. A $20-million flexi-fuel engine plant capable of producing 100,000 engines in the next five years is currently being built in the Philippines.

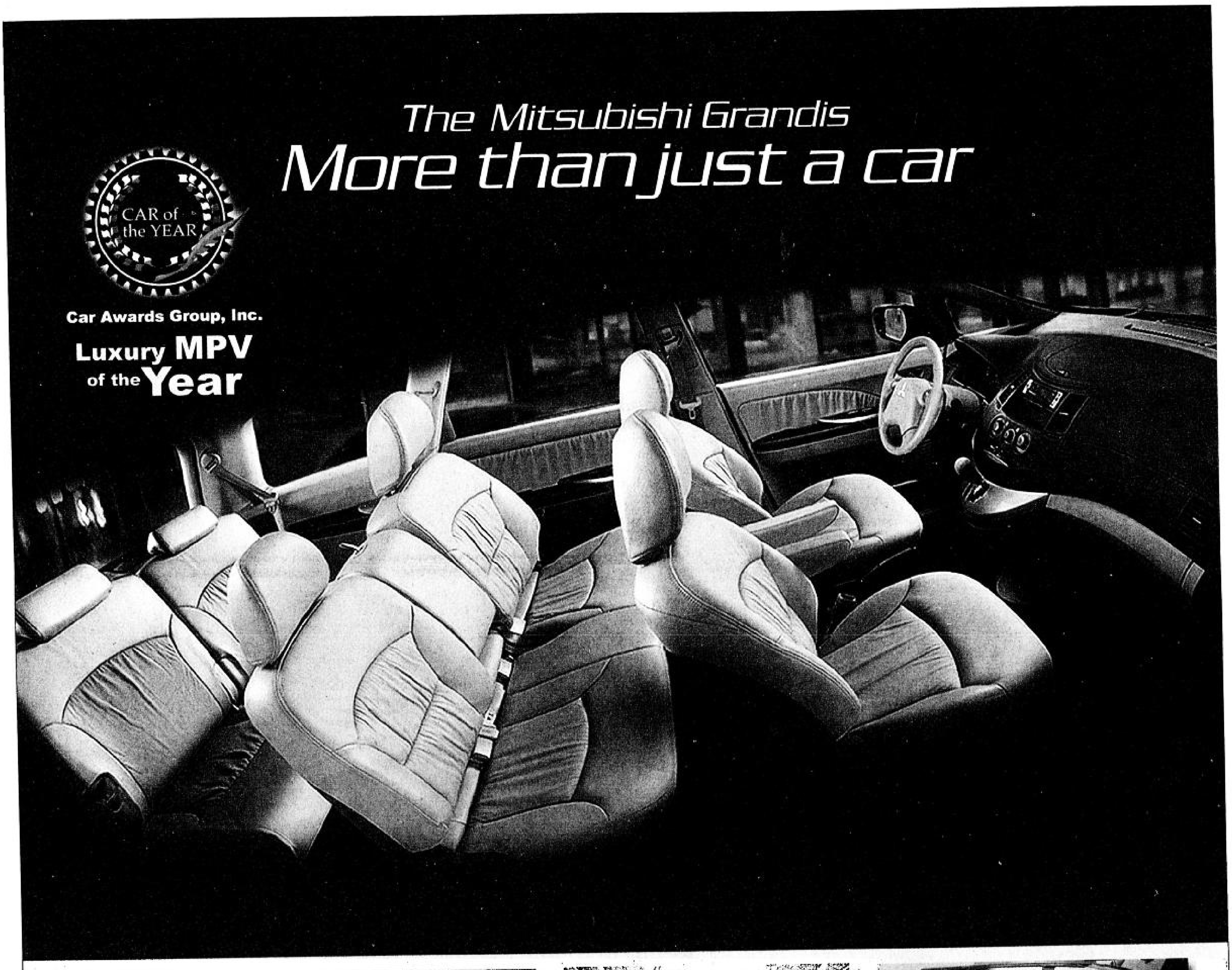
Prior to this, early initiatives of Ford Motor Company include the establishment of the Ford Research Library 50 years ago as a center of innovation where automotive breakthroughs are developed. Through the years, the center has evolved into Ford Research and Advanced Engineering (Ford R&A) whose efforts impact all systems in an automobile, including safety, emissions, fuel economy, manufacturing materials, comfort and convenience and power and performance.

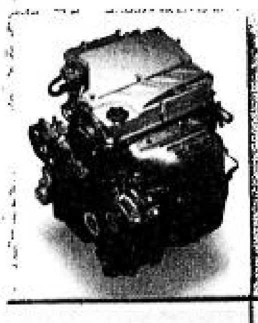
One of the Ford R&A's most important innovations is the Ford-patented Onboard Reductant Delivery (ORD) system. The Ford ORD system is an air-assisted reductant injection system that enables exhaust treatment systems to help meet stringent future diesel emission standards worldwide, including the US Tier 2 and European Stage IV and V limits for smog-forming emissions.

Ford has very early on recognized that its products contribute to the change of the world's climate-18 percent of man-made CO2 emissions are caused by cars. Thus, Ford has endeavored to be a global leader in the development of vehicle emission control systems. Coupled with the ever growing complexity of new regulatory requirements, these technologies-such as gasoline direct injection and diesel fuel operation-have effectively reduced emissions by more than 96 percent in vehicles produced in mature-market countries.

A global "Substance Use Restrictions" standard has been put in place. Reviewed quarterly by company experts and revised and re-issued annually, this standard informs personnel and suppliers of certain substances which must be restricted in or excluded from products supplied to Ford or used in various facilities. Among these products are chromium in pre-paint coating, mercury-containing switches, lubricating oil, PCB transformers, emissions from painting operations, and oily wastewater.

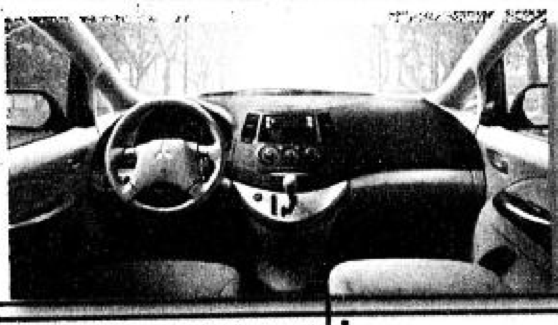
The Rouge Ford Center in Dearborn, Michigan is "a model of 21st century sustainable manufacturing." The overhauled facility features world-class flexibility, with assembly lines capable of handling three different vehicle platforms and nine different models.



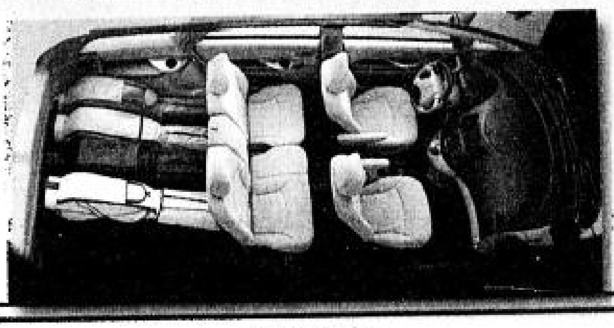


2.4-liter MIVEC Engine
Mitsubishi Innovative Valve Electronic Control (MIVEC) employs a multiple cam lobe system to vary valve timing depending on engine speed. At 3,600rpm, the engine switches control of each cylinder's twin intake valves from low-and medium-speed to high-speed cam profiles, increasing the overlap between the intake and exhaust and boosting output throughout the high rev range.

INVECS-II 4-Speed A/T with SPORTRONIC



Stylish Dashboard



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3 WARRANTY

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

2nd CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Crunching numbers, spinning wheels to arrive at one grand conclusion

CAGI president Manny delos Reyes (left) hands over the Coty-P trophy for the entry-level MPV category to Toyota's Ariel de Jesus

them because they are winners in their own right," said Amio who was also Cagi's first president.

With help of professional rally drivers of Applied Leisure in Sales and Operations Corp Raul Asuncion, Barry Ortiz, Joey Lanuza, Bingky Siddayao, LJ Garcia, Andre Palma and Ferman Lao, motoring writers had the opportunity to repeatedly do spirited driving--7/10ths, 8/10ths, even 9/10ths--at the enclosed technical course with some having redlined engines, locked brakes, and squealed tires while cornering.

As a result, the motoring writers saw how each flashy and simple car available in the market for buyers could perform and do "other tricks up its sleeves".

The test-fest team observed that the Forest Hills test track also revealed poorly sorted suspensions due to off-camber turns, downhill esses, and even a wicked dip that could lift a driver off his or her seat at only 50 kph. A series of fast and slow corners tested a gearbox's responsiveness--be it a manual or an automatic.

Several cul de sacs tested a vehicle's turning radius. Virtually every aspect of a car's performance were evaluated.

The Rockwell Tent in Makati City has been the automotive media's venue of choice for its most important event for the second straight year.

Cagi is a 40-member association of writers and broadcast journalists from print, television, radio and online media outfits in the Philippines.

Aside from Amio and Delos Reyes, this year's core group that planned the test-fest and awards program include Ulysses Ang (testfest director); Aida Sevilla Mendoza (ways and means director); Robby Consunji (ethics director), Ira Panganiban (program director).

The group is also composed of Aris Ilagan (vice president), Tessa Salazar (secretary), Alvin Uy (marketing director); Jude Morte (communications coordinator); Jason Ang; Channel 23's "Hotwire" (Jinno Rufino, Ronnie Trinidad and Joe Guerrero), RPN 9's "AutoExtreme" (Ardie Lopez, Jose Luis Romualdez).

The Coty-P awards night will be shown in Studio 23's "Hotwire" at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 9.

Car Awards Group, Inc.

2nd CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

The second CAR OF THE YEAR (COTY-P) title went to the best of 11 best-in-class winners. Fifty-four motor vehicles vied for top honors underwent quantitative and qualitative tests over a span of six weekends this January and February at an enclosed area in Forest Hills Golf and Country Club, Antipolo.

The Car Awards Group, Inc. (CAGI), an independent, non-profit, non-stock association of 40 motoring journalists from more than two dozen print, broadcast and online media outfits, conducted the tests with the aim of recognizing and encouraging the achievement of higher engineering, design, performance and safety standards by car manufacturers.

It would not have been at all possible without the support of COTY-P sponsors who share CAGI's belief in the valuable contribution of the automobile industry to Philippine economic progress and national development.

Those who supported and cooperated with the 2ND COTY-P deserve the nation's esteem and applause.

Catch the Coty-P winning vehicles on April 6 to 9, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the MANILA AUTO SHOW 2006 World Trade Center, Pasay City.

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- Low Downpayment deals of 15% for 2006 Crosswind variants*
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- Low Downpayment deals of 15% for the 2006 Alterra*

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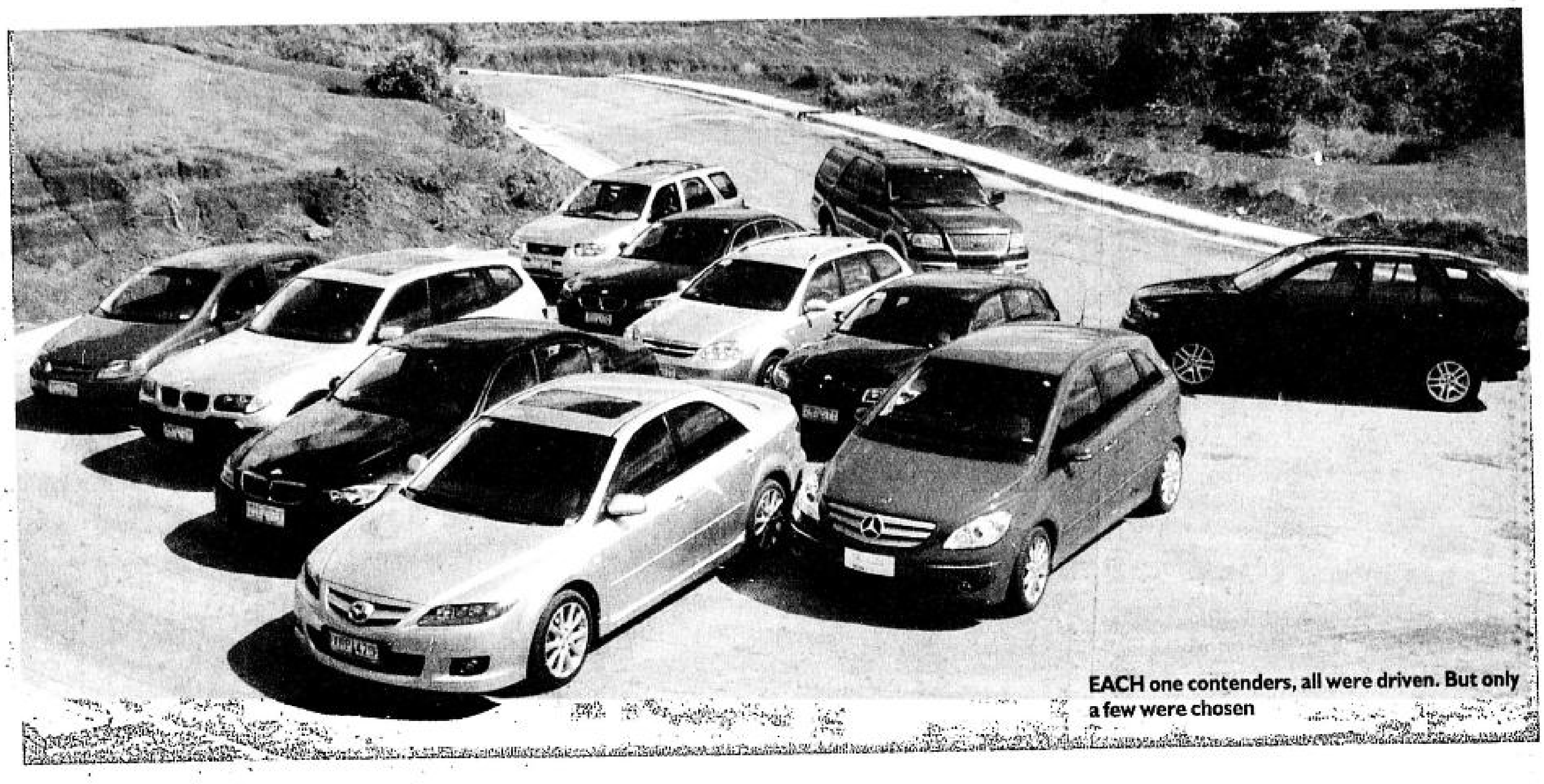
CAR of the YEAR

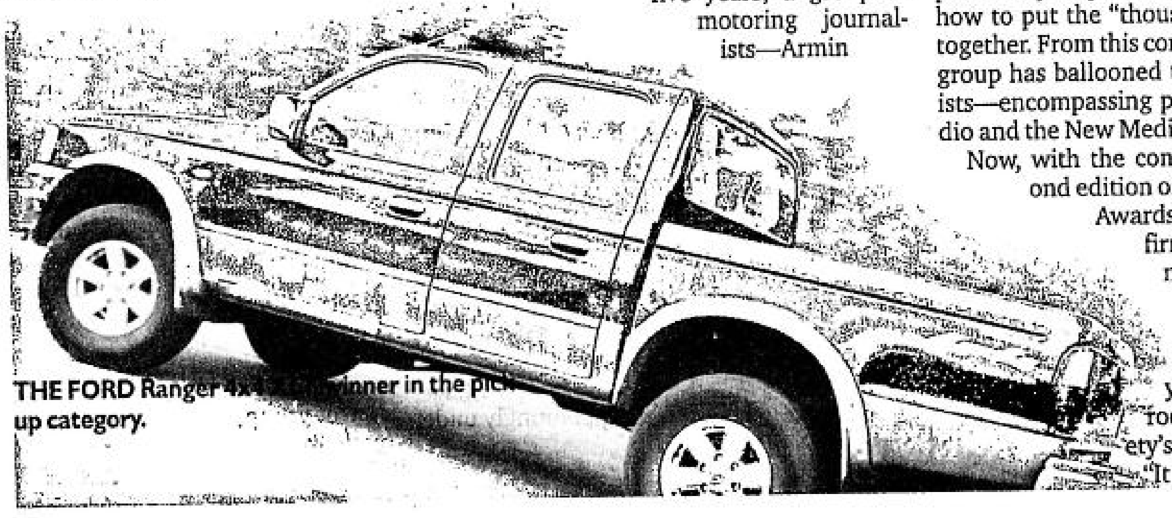
2nd CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS



EACH one contenders, all were driven. But only a few were chosen

RP's answer to the global car awards phenomenon

THE IDEA MAY NOT BE original. Many countries have given tribute and laid honor to their own best performing automobiles for decades.



THE FORD Ranger 4x4 [illegible] winner in the pick-up category.

But for two years, the Philippine motoring media has removed itself from being mere envious spectators, and has become an active participant to this growing global phenomenon.

After several attempts in the past five years, a group of motoring journalists—Armin Amio of

Motorista.com.ph and Gadgets Magazine; Lester Dizon of

Philippine Star, Aris Ilagan of Manila Bulletin, Tessa

Salazar and Andre Palma of the Philippine Daily Inquirer—finally figured out how to put the "thousand-piece" puzzle together. From this core group of five, the group has ballooned to over 40 journalists—encompassing print, television, radio and the New Media.

Now, with the conclusion of the second edition of the Coty-P, the Car Awards Group Inc reaffirms its firm commitment to catch up with countries that have made their own car of the year events deeply footed in their society's collective psyche.

"It would be really nice to look our counterparts from Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia in the eye and say that we are part of the Philippine Car of the Year," said Cagi president Manny delos Reyes.

Delos Reyes added that the car awards system in the country is still a far cry from those of the European, North American and Japanese Cotys, "but they have had decades more experience and are vastly better funded than we are."

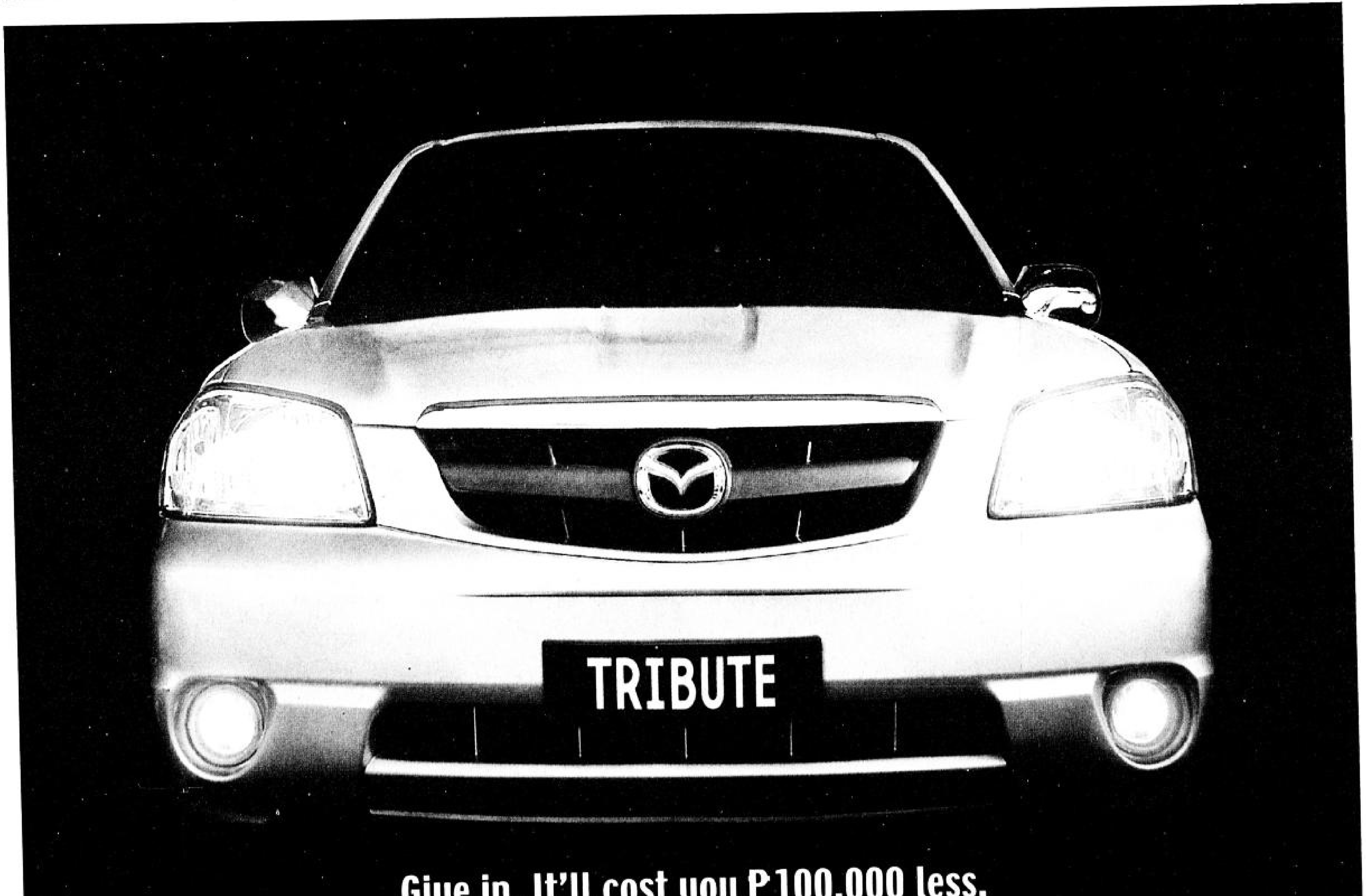
Coty-P is only 2 years old. It was founded by motoring journalists Armin Amio (media outfit???) and Lester Dizon (Philippine Star), with Aris Ilagan (Manila Bulletin), Andre Palma and Tessa Salazar (both from the Philippine Daily Inquirer), and Ardie Lopez (RPN 9's "AutoExtreme") forming the core group.

Though Coty-P is still in its infancy, it has made a considerable impact on the local motoring landscape, and car manufacturers look forward to being recognized among the Car Awards Group Inc's awardees for the year.

"We have to start somewhere," Delos Reyes states. "Several local media outfits have their own respective car awards, but this does not mean that results will conflict or that one group's tests are better than the other. Even in Europe, America and Japan, various media have their respective awards but they all unite to form their respective countries' Coty. We should be the same".

"The Car of the Year project is an idea that's long overdue. In the back of every motoring reporter's mind, we know we have to put up a project similar to those being conducted by our counterparts in other countries. Subjecting ourselves and the vehicles we test to more objective testing procedures should hone our skills and set us at par with our colleagues in other parts of the world. We are looking beyond the Philippines in

RP'S ANSWER/F2



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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 1601, Series of 2006.

RP's answer...

From page F1

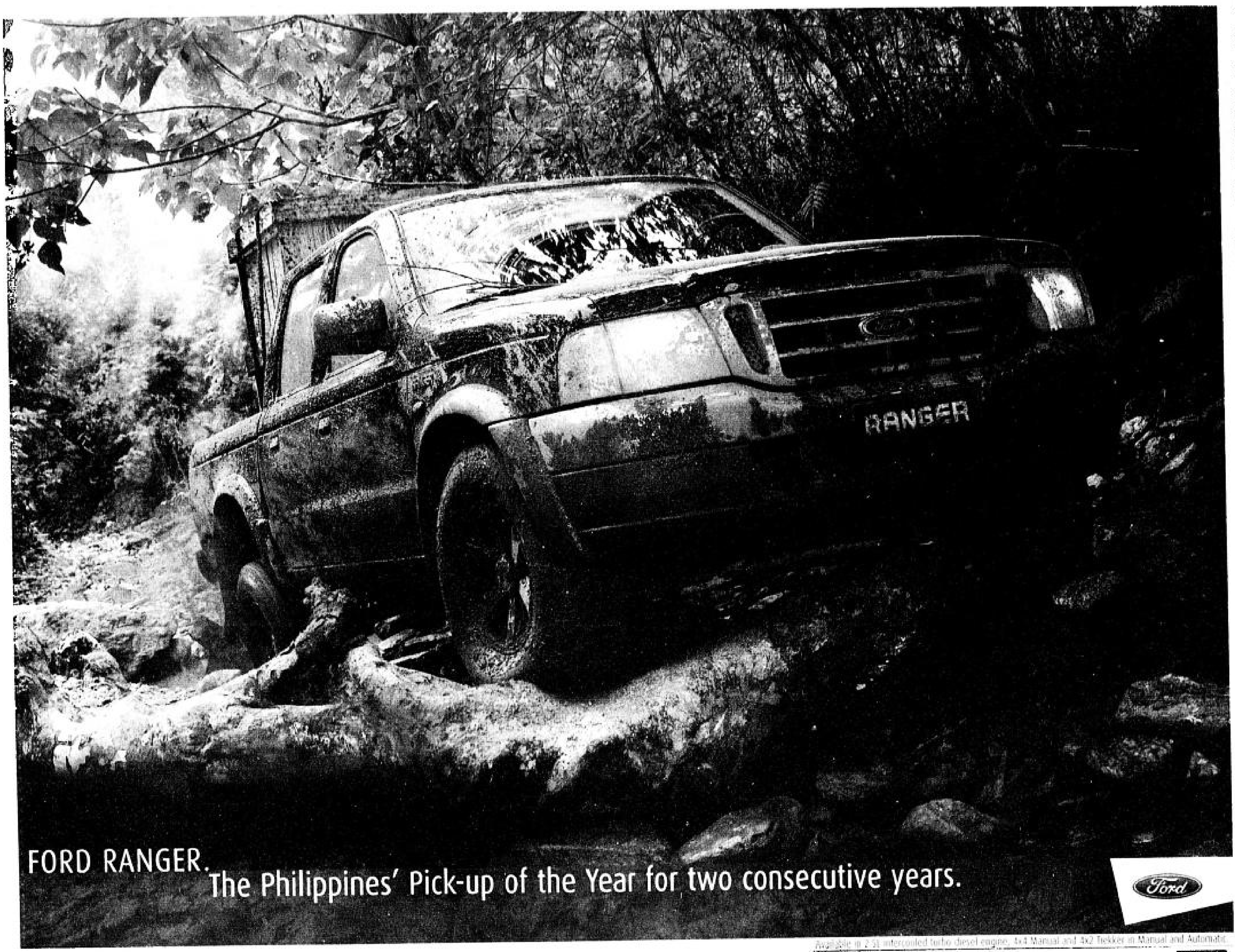
this project. We want to show to our counterparts in other countries that we, too, can do it," said Amio, now Coty-P executive director.

In its first year in 2004-2005, Coty-P was immediately recognized by the international motoring media. Motor Trend executive editor Matt Stone expressed his encouragement as he relayed this message through Inquirer's Tessa Salazar: "The fact that you gathered and tried to have the standards of professionalism ... that elevates the industry to a higher level."

Motor Trend magazine has the oldest and largest Car Of The Year program.

Other well wishers in 2004 were Yamin Vong of Cars, Bikes, Trucks in Malaysia; Greg Wilson of CanadianDriver.com, and Bijoy Kumar Y of the Business Standard Motoring of India.

The 2005 Coty-P is supported by the Manila International Auto Show, Rockwell Land Corp, Philippine Allied Corp. (sole distributor of Bridgestone tires in the country), Petron, accounting firm Sycip, Gorres and Velayo, Standard Insurance, road safety advocate Federal Express Corp, Manila North Tollways Corp, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Automobile Association Philippines, Fusion R Motorsports and motioncars.com.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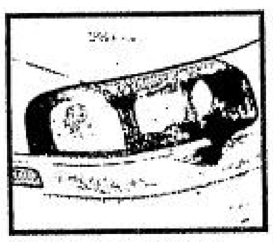
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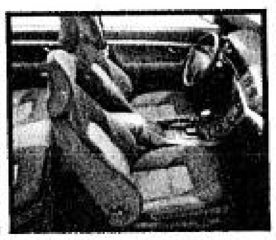
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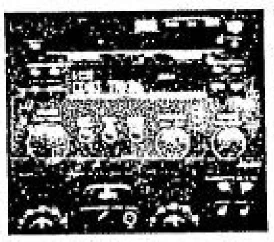
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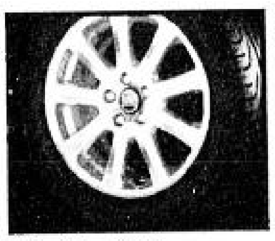
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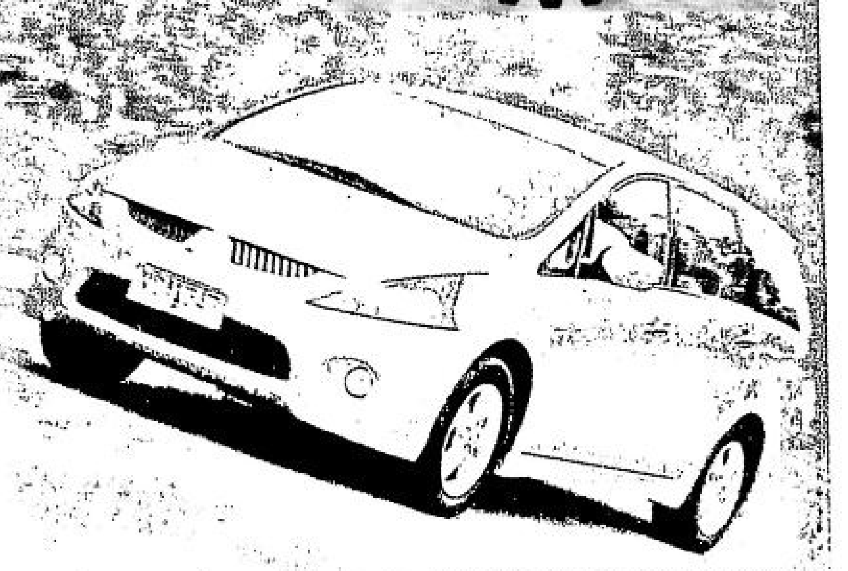
2nd CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Coty-P winners at the Manila Auto Show



CONTINUING A TRADITION, THE MANILA International Auto Show will be the site for the public unveiling of the 2005 Car of the Year Philippines.

As expected, the Second Manila International Auto Show (formerly known as the Manila International Motor Show) will also dazzle with new model introductions and never-before seen special cars and concept vehicles

It is set once again to provide an annual venue for car buyers and enthusiasts alike to take a closer look at the latest models and significant concepts from the country's premiere auto makers.

The show will open on April 6 and will run until April 9, from 10 am to 10 pm at the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. This year marks a much larger show with a strategic alliance with the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (CAMPI), which presents the show as their annual showcase of what's new and what's important in the industry. There's much more to do with these major exhibitors: Audi, BMW, Chevrolet, Chrysler, Dodge, Ferrari, Ford, Honda, Hyundai, Isuzu, Jaguar, Jeep, Kia, Maserati, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Peugeot, Porsche, Toyota and Volvo. Aside from static displays, numerous test drives will available.

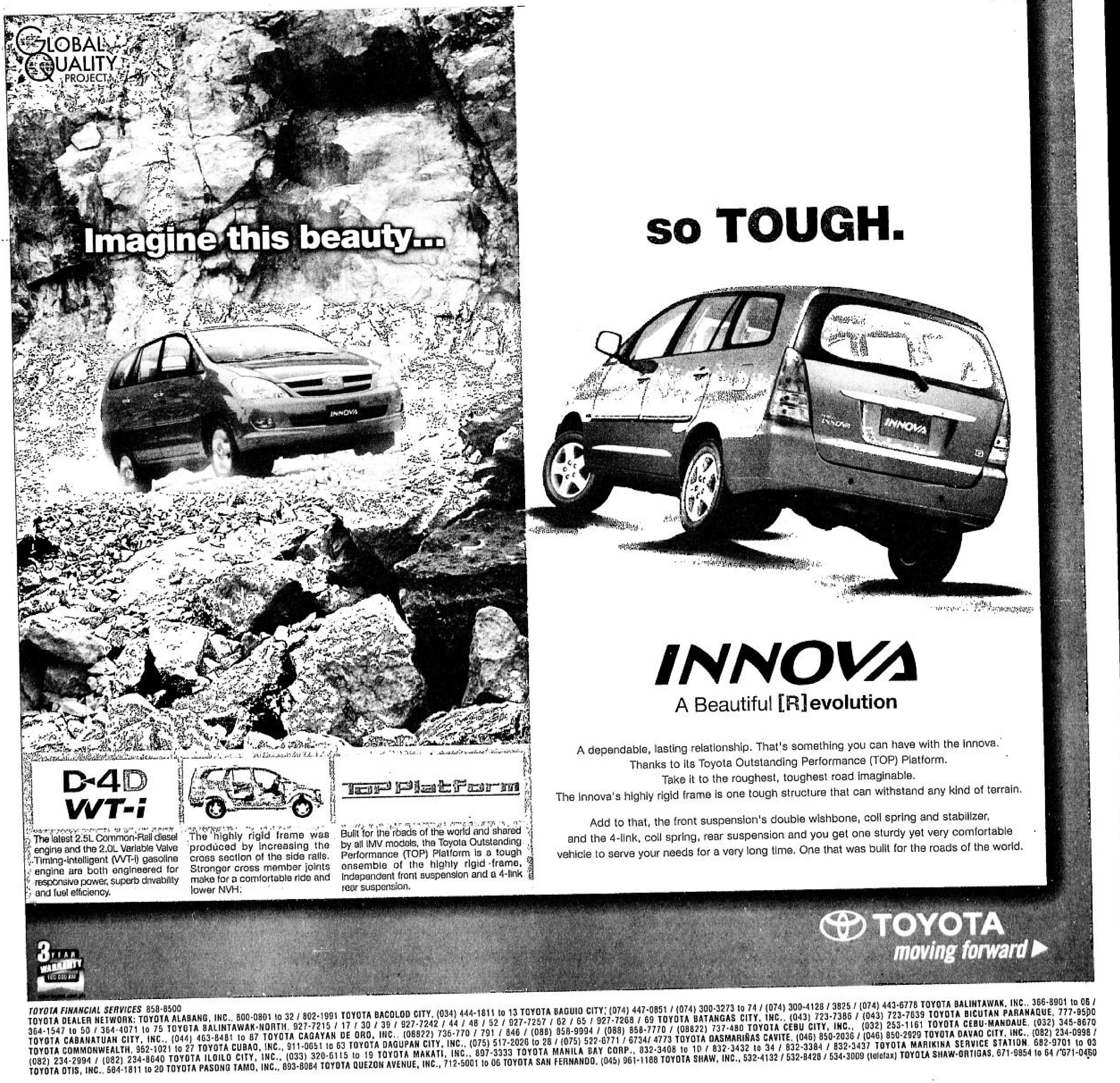
To whet the car enthusiast's appetite, several car launches are being floated as possible Manila International Auto Show firsts. The biggest news has got to be from Honda — with their all-new 8th generation Civic. Jeep will make its Philippine return with the Commander, which will debut with the all-new Chrysler Pacifica luxury wagon, both exclusively distributed by CATS Motors. Toyota is expected to go all-out luxury with their all-new Previa. Nissan Motor Philippines plans to take a slice of the premium SUV market with their 265 horsepower Murano. Kia Motors will introduce the all-new Rio sedan and hatchback. Hyundai will introduce their all-new Santa Fe SUV.

The exhibitors want to outdo their own displays last year and for the first time, announced an amazing array of concept and never-before seen road cars. Mitsubishi Motor Philippines will proudly display their rally heritage with the Dakar-winning Pajero Evolution plus the Lancer Evolution IX MR and the Eclipse 3.8 V6. Ford Group Philippines will flex their compact car muscle with their 225 horsepower Focus ST and Focus DuraTorq diesel. Mercedes-Benz will preview the future of motoring with demos of the F-Cell hydrogen-powered fuel cell car, as Isuzu demonstrates its Elf Hybrid truck. Toyota's TF105 Formula One racecar will represent the company's motorsports ambitions. The evocative 550-hp Motul Ford GT will certainly be another crowd drawer.

Manila International Auto Show will also unveil a new air conditioned tent adjacent to the main hall that will house the most impressive show cars from the likes of Rota, Michelin, A-Toy, Concept One, Makna, Thule and Xenon Bulbs. BPI Credit Cards will hold its first ever Auto Madness installment promo during the show. Total will showcase its fuels and lubricants and will be giving away thousands of pesos in free fuel every day of the show.

Great deals and promos await those who decide to purchase new cars and car accessories during the show. The overall footprint of the Manila International Auto Show has grown to more than 10,000 square-meters. This will surely draw more people than the already record-breaking 70,000 visitors last year.

FORD'S Don Gelinas hoists the Coty-P trophy up. With him are SGV&Co chair and partner David Balangue, Coty-P executive director Armin Amio, and veteran rally driver Pocholo Ramirez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People, Events & Products

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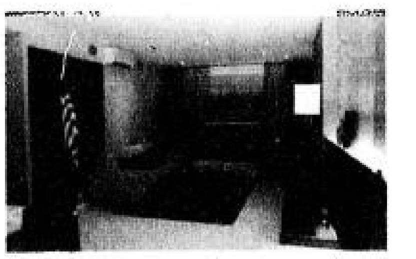
Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Luxurious living redefined

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR AT THE Bonifacio Global City. The fast-growing cosmopolitan hub is adding a new prestigious address to its impressive cityscape-the Seibu Tower, a high-rise residential condominium managed by Golden Forum Land Inc.

On an evening of champagne, sushi, and music, president Harvard V. Yu unveiled a scale model of the 27-story modern monolith at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio. Shuttles transported guests to Seibu Tower's model units housed less than 10 minutes away from where Asya Design Partner's much-anticipated architectural gem would rise-on 6th Avenue corner 24th Street, a prime piece of property that sits right at the heart of the Global City.

Guests took in the contemporary yet cozy interiors designed by Architect James R. Macaraig. From the dropdown ceiling and the cove lighting, to the built-in bed and the rich wood paneling, quiet elegance and functionality underline the philosophy of Seibu Tower. The pièce de résistance, though, is the 270-degree panoramic alcove window, a priceless luxury afforded in all corner units. Depending on the unit's orientation, lucky owners can get a stunning vista of Manila Golf, Laguna de Bay, the Makati skyline, or Pasig's sprawling metropolis. Access to such spectacular views is Seibu Tower's grandest feature, keenly incorporated by its multi-awarded principal architect Albert S. Yu into the blueprint of the residential masterpiece, which he dubs "an epitome of modern architecture that binds man with his environment."



Set amidst a progressive urban landscape teeming with leisure hotspots like the Fort Strip, restaurants, malls, a world-class gym, a renowned spa, and other retail stores, Seibu Tower is indeed a yuppie's or a family's ideal home. Business districts Makati and Ortigas, and Naia are just minutes away via Edsa and the C5 Road; while prominent educational and banking institutions are likewise within easy reach. To make life even more convenient for Seibu dwellers, the first three floors of the building will house commercial establishments, such as salon and cafe. Residents can also enjoy the condominium's 30-meter lap pool, kiddie pool, bubble and jet spa, jogging trail, and well-manicured garden.

With all these amenities, including ample four-story parking spaces, 24-hour security, and automatic fire alarm and sprinkler systems, Seibu sounds like an opulent haven with an extravagant price tag. On the contrary, its units are priced remarkably competitive, almost half the cost of its neighboring condominiums. At P48,000 per square meter, a 41-square-meter single-bedroom unit can set one back for only P1.9 million. Once it's furnished with dropdown ceiling, flooring, cabinets, and other fixtures, the price can increase marginally by as little as P10,000 per square meter. Seibu also offers two- and three-bedroom units that cover anywhere from 72 to 118 square meters. Select units come with a balcony that's perfect for stargazing.

By cutting out the middle man-the real estate developer-project manager Golden Forum Land is able to bring costs down to a very competitive level. Under the expertise of CE Construction, ground breaking begins in December 2006; and turnover is slated for December 2008.

Yu remarked in his speech, "(Seibu) is our biggest achievement in our three years of operation... Our company is young, dynamic, and very aggressive in ensuring the success of our enterprise through 100-percent customer satisfaction." Gauging by the Seibu Tower's successful launch that evening and the number of sales closed, Yu and his team are off to a very promising start.

If you want to view Seibu Tower's model units, visit Golden Forum Land at 31st corner 2nd Street, Bonifacio Stopover Fort Bonifacio, Global City. Appointments and inquiries can be made at 819-1913/819-1959/816-0912.

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M&M'S PROMO GRAND PRIZE WINNERS

Masterfoods Philippines Inc, makers of M&M's chocolate candies, awarded to its M&M's 'Jazz Up Your Christmas' grand prize winners their brand new Honda Jazz at the Honda Cars Makati Feb. 28. The promo garnered thousands of responses through text messaging, and excitement for patrons of M&M's, which brought the winners to a victorious stage. Top photo shows Honda Jazz winners Lorelie Pangilinan, Dorothy Quan, and Crizandra Catibog. Photo above shows the winners with representatives from Master Foods John San Miguel, franchise manager, and Kristine Lim, and Honda Cars Makati's Isagani Baybay, sales manager; Patty Echivarre, general sales manager and JC Ibarra, sales executive.

LakBYKE Mabuhay Tour offers on-site registration

TO ENABLE MORE CYCLISTS FROM METRO Manila and nearby provinces to participate in the LakBYKE Mabuhay Tour 2006 slated for April 6 to 8, event organizer Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM) will open up on-site registration facilities at the QC Memorial Circle pick-up point and at the San Fernando, Pampanga tour starting point at the Pampanga Provincial Capitol at the morning of Saturday, April 8.

The LakBYKE Mabuhay Tour 2006 is an educational-cultural bike tour that will retrace in reverse the grueling Death March by Pilipino World War II veterans and heroes and the valiant defense of the Philippine nation against a superior enemy.

This event seeks to achieve a "consciousness reversal" in our observance of historical events. Instead of focusing on "defeats" such as the Fall of Bataan, the event focuses our historical perspective on the uplifting values of solidarity and collective self-reliance manifested by "Galing Pilipino" heroes.

To commemorate this momentous event, the LakBYKE Mabuhay Tour will retrace the Death March in reverse, and on bikes, starting from Capas, Tarlac, leading to San Fernando, Pampanga to Mariveles, Bataan and finally ending in Balanga, Bataan. In total, the LakBYKE Mabuhay Tour will travel over 130 kilometers of history.

The schedules of the three-day bike tour are: On April 6 (provincial-based bikers), a tour of historical shrines around Tarlac; on April 7 (for provincial-based bikers), retracing the route World War II prisoners took from Capas, Tarlac to San Fernando, Pampanga; on April 8 (for Metro Manila and provincial-based bikers), retracing the Death March route from the San Fernando, Pampanga old train station to Km 0 at Mariveles, Bataan, and ending in Balanga, Bataan.

During the event, activities at each stop will enhance the tour experience. On April 6 in Capas, Tarlac, a "Galing Panimula sa Capas", the "Galing Leadership Forum", "Galing Parangal Para sa mga Bayani", and a "Mabuhay Concert" greets bikers and other participants of the Tour. On April 7, during the run from Capas to San Fernando, there will be a symbolic "Galing Salubong", "Galing Kalinangan Pagtitipon", and a "Mabuhay Concert." Finally, on April 8, at designated routes at Guagua, Layac, Hermosa, Orani, Balanga, Pilar, Mariveles and at the Bataan Capitol will be held culminating events such as "Ambag-Pagkain", "Galing Leadership Forum", "Paggunita Tour", and "Parangal sa Beterano". The Tour will be capped with a grand fireworks display and the Galing Pilipino Mabuhay Concert at the Bataan Capitol.

Interested participants from Metro Manila can proceed to the bus pick-up point at the Quezon City Circle at 4 a.m., or directly to the starting point at the San Fernando Provincial Capitol at 7 a.m. on April 8 and register on-site. For inquiries on registration fees and other details, call the Galing Pilipino Movement at 631-3932 or 633-1089.

The Galing Pilipino Movement is a non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian private sector initiative that recognizes, affirms and propagates what is good and *galing* (excellent) about being Pilipino, about Pilipinos and about the Philippines as a counterforce to the negativism and cynicism that erodes our sense of nationalism and collective worth. GPM wants to make *galing* the brand mark of this generation of Pilipinos. GPM holds offices at Suite 252 Cityland Tower Condominium, Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City.

The LakBYKE Mabuhay Tour 2006 is supported by Chowking, Sun Life Financial, Cosmos Bottling Corp, Rapp Collins, Procter & Gamble Philippines, www.yehey.com, DDB cares, San Miguel Purefoods, Magnolia, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, and the Manila Broadcasting Company. Cycad (Cycling Advocates) has provided technical and logistical assistance to the Tour.

PHILAMLIFE GIVES DOCTORS A FINANCIAL PRESCRIPTION

The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co (Philamlife), the leading insurance company in the country, recently conducted a wealth management lecture during the 72nd Annual Convention of the Philippine Federation of Private Medical Practitioners (PFPMP) at the Pan Pacific Hotel Manila. The lecture, dubbed 'Financial Prescription for Successful Doctors', imparted to federation members expert techniques on investing and diversification to maximize their money's potential. This forum is part of a nationwide series conducted by Philamlife to enlighten specific audiences on subjects concerning accumulation, protection, and transfer of wealth and finances. Philamlife assistant vice president for Chinese market Leonardo D. Tan Jr (standing 5th from left) conducted the talk on investments and estate planning. Among the participants were PFPMP Comelec chair Carlito P. Pajarillo MD and incoming PFPMP president Tomas L. Belarmino MD (standing 3rd and 4th from left, respectively). Also present were Philamlife agency manager Romeo M. Ramos (standing 2nd from left) and financial advisors from the Ramos Associates Agency.

TB still a dangerous disease

PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE world recently observed tuberculosis day. Global TB care providers have set a day every year to remind everyone of the scourge of tuberculosis. The observance this year commemorates the 124th year of the discovery of TB bacterium by Dr. Koch.

Tuberculosis or TB is an infectious disease caused by bacteria called mycrobacterium tuberculosis. The bacteria can enter the body, usually the lungs, and make a person sick by damaging the tissues that it reaches.

When a person with TB of the lungs coughs, shouts or sings, TB bacteria is expelled into the air. TB bacteria is carried within tiny, invisible droplets of moisture that can float in the air for several hours.

TB, like death, is a great leveler. It does not matter if a person is rich or poor, educated or illiterate, young or old. Anyone who breathes in the TB bacteria will have TB infection. Of course, there is a world of difference between being infected and having the disease. Unlike those with TB disease, those "infected" do not have any symptoms. If their immune systems are strong, infected people will not develop TB disease. But what if their immune systems are weak? TB easily develops with lowered immunity.

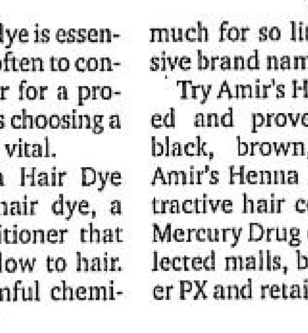
Do not suffer the children-this is the message of worthy guardians of children in the Philippines today who have seriously taken the task of preventing childhood TB in the Philippines. Spearheaded by Philippine Ambulatory Pediatrics Association of the Philippines (Papa) and Pediatrica Inc with the support and coordination of the World Health Organization, POTTS Foundation, the Department of Health and local government units concerned, these guardians have, for the past three years, been implementing a program known as A Community Based Tuberculosis Program in Children. This is basically a TB diagnosis and treatment program primarily directed to children to complement the current TB program for adults. According to Dr. Jocelyn Yambao-Franco, president of Papa, "they are already on their fourth community, having successfully implemented it in three communities-Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Mabalacat and Floridablanca, Pampanga.

"We intend to bring this kind of treatment to a large number of communities and train enough doctors and nurses so that it becomes a continuing program in places where this has been implemented. With the continuing support of the core groups of participating sectors, the program may well be on its way to implementation nationwide," Yambao-Franco explained.

Product FILES

The greatest herbal hair dye

FROM THE NUMBER OF LOcal television commercials with ladies flipping around their long flowing tresses and the amount of time (and money) that is spent on a daily basis on beautifying one's hair (just check the lines at your local salons), it is no wonder that Filipinos are known to be passionate about their hair.



Many people dye their hair regularly, to give a different touch to an otherwise ordinary look. Yet, choosing the right hair dye is essential, as hair dyeing must be done often to continue having that solid hair color for a prolonged period of time. This means choosing a hair and scalp-friendly hair dye is vital.

This is where Amir's Henna Hair Dye comes in. It's a henna-based hair dye, a herbal dyeing agent and conditioner that brings out a rich and healthy glow to hair. Amir's doesn't contain any harmful chemicals that can damage hair. In fact, it not only doesn't have any strong chemicals, it has no strong smell at all. Aside from giving hair a new shade, it also makes hair grow thicker, conditions it, gives it a clean, healthy shine and protects the scalp, too. Henna is known for, aside from being a dyeing agent, a protector of the scalp from heat and pollution. Amir's Henna Hair Dye gives so much for so little cost compared to expensive brand name hair dyes.

Try Amir's Henna Hair Dye today. It's tested and proven worldwide. Available in black, brown, burgundy and chestnut, Amir's Henna Hair Dye promises a new attractive hair color. It's now available at all Mercury Drug outlets nationwide, and at selected malls, beauty supply stores, and other PX and retail stores.

Easter experience at Linden Suites

SPARE YOURSELF FROM THE worries and headaches of an out-of-town trip this Holy Week. From April 8 to 17, The Linden Suites pampers guests with a week of relaxation, reflection and rejuvenation.

"An Easter Experience at The Linden Suites" Holy Week package guarantees a memorable stay for every member of the family.

Aside from affordable yet spacious executive rooms at P3,400 net inclusive of buffet breakfast for two and use of health club facilities, the hotel has also lined up a crafts and painting session and a do-it-yourself merienda session for kids, and a Visita Iglesia for devout guests. There is also the much-awaited Easter party with the great Easter egg hunt on April 16.

To experience the difference this Holy Week, call The Linden Suites at 638-7878 or e-mail sales@lindensuites.com.

Major band competition set at Baywalk

ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE RAJAH SULAYMAN AT BAYWALK, Manila April 7 for the 1st Whoops 'Battle of the Bands: Fashion and Music Clash". The trendy clothing line will be staging the major fashion concert, featuring a competition among the country's best amateur bands and fashion show introducing the brand's 2006 apparel. Ten finalists, all chosen from a rigorous screening process that saw almost one hundred bands participating in the eliminations, will vie for the top prize of P100,000 cash and a 5-year recording contract with Warner Music and scholarships from STI. With the competition, Whoops aims to discover the country's newest super bands that will lord over the local music industry. Hosting the event will be fashion icon Tim Yap and top model/host Issa Litton, with special participation by Whoops endorsers Gabriel Valenciano and Nicole Hernandez. Event starts at 6 p.m. under the direction of Jon Mendoza.